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TELECOM PROFIT SURGE

Investors gain 43p a share

By ROLAND GRIBBEN Business Correspondent
BRITISH TELECOM shares were sold for almost double their down-payment price yesterday as the Opposition accused the Government of "criminal incompetence" over the sale of 50.2 per cent. of the State company.

Shares changed hands at up to 98p when dealings opened in a rugby scrum atmosphere in London and New York — a profit of 48p on the partly-paid price of 50p.

The shares settled down to finish at 93p when the London market closed at 6 p.m. During specially-extended trading hours, about 750 million to a billion shares, almost a third of the total issue, changed hands in an unprecedented scramble.

The 43p premium represented a "paper loss" for the Government of almost £1.5 billion.

Every penny above the offer price "cost" the Government £50 million. If the shares had been pitched at a price equivalent to last night's closing level the issue would have raised a total of £5.3 billion against the £3.8 billion it will bring in before deductions of about £200 million for commissions and other costs.

The Government's ordinary shareholders were yesterday in the international rush to buy and sell. They will not get their money until the allotment of a maximum of 800 shares until next week-end and are taking a gamble if they try to deal before they know they hold shares.

Blocks of 5m shares sold
Institutions were active with some selling and others buying in blocks of five million shares or more in a tip up their holdings on Wall Street where 6 per cent. of the three billion shares were on offer. Telecom was the best-selling stock "by a wide margin".

The peak Wall Street price was just over 93p in early trading. But at last night's prices ordinary shareholders with the maximum allotment were sitting on a paper profit of £54.

Investors 'voted with cheque books'

By JAMES WIGHTMAN Political Correspondent
GOVERNMENT delight at the British Telecom shares. Notation was expressed in the Commons yesterday by Mr. Patten, Minister of State for Industry and Information Technology, who said people had "voted with their cheque books".

He was dismissing criticism from Mr. Alan Williams, Labour's trade spokesman, who accused the Government of "criminal incompetence" over the privatisation of the State industry.

Mr. Williams said: "The Government has today presided over the biggest giveaway in British commercial history. How did the Government get it so wrong? Five times over subscribed and a 45p premium."

He added that for every penny above the 50p down payment price for which shares were traded the Government lost £50 million.

Taxpayers' assets
On this basis today's so-called success for the Government has meant giving us £1,550 million that really belongs to all of us," said Mr. Williams.

The Government should not be surprised as you can sell almost anything at half price and in this case it is taxpayers' assets that are being sold short.

The Government, Mr. Williams said, should have tried to "get off the speculative hysteria we have seen today by transferring to the United Kingdom market 400 million shares allocated to



A cordial atmosphere as Mrs Thatcher met Dr Garret FitzGerald, Irish Prime Minister, for the start of the two-day Common Market summit in Dublin yesterday. Report—P4.

375 DIE AS GAS ESCAPES

By DAVID GRAVES in Madras

At least 375 people were killed when a cloud of poisonous gas leaked from a pesticide factory to the Indian city of Bhopal yesterday.

Tens of thousands of people fled in panic from the city, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, as the gas spread over an area of 30 square miles. About 4,000 were injured.

The gas, methyl isocyanate, escaped after a valve on an underground storage tank gave way. Gas escaped for 40 minutes before the leak was brought under control.

Victims asleep

The escape began shortly after midnight when most residents were asleep. Many victims were reported to have died most of them children or old people, floating in the mouth in their homes or in streets.

The factory, owned by the Indian subsidiary of the United States-owned Union Carbide, was built seven years ago in Bhopal's old quarter close to slums.

Thousands of animals died on the outskirts of the city. Police threw a cordon round Bhopal, stopping trains, planes and vehicles entering. Four officials of the factory were arrested.

CHIEF WHIP TO CONVALESCENCE WITH FRIENDS

By Our Political Correspondent
Mr. John Wakeham, Government Chief Whip, who was badly injured in the Brighton hotel bomb attack in October, left the Royal Sussex Hospital yesterday. He is to convalesce with friends in London.

Mr. Wakeham, whose wife Roberta was killed in the explosion, is walking with the aid of a frame. It was not known last night when he would be able to resume his duties at Westminster.

Mr. Tebbit, Trade and Industry Secretary, who was also injured at Brighton, is still in Stoke Mandeville Hospital and was not known last night when he would be able to leave.

ELITE LOANS TO SHOPPERS

By Our City Staff
Shoppers borrowed just over £1 billion in October from finance houses and retailers, said the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday. The highest monthly total was last May when £1.02 billion was advanced.

At the end of October, the amount outstanding in credit agreements was £16.08 billion — 18 per cent. more than a year earlier.

A PROFITS RECORD

By Our City Correspondent
British Airways announced half-year profits of £780 million yesterday, up by a record 36 per cent.

Spill-out epidemic—P4.

Student loan plan may defuse revolt

By JAMES WIGHTMAN Political Correspondent

MINISTERS yesterday began seeking a formula for a climb-down in the controversy over proposed cuts in students' grants in case a threatened Tory rebellion fails to give way to Government pressure.

There was a marked softening of the line by Ministers and officials over the weekend that the Government would not give in to the some 150 Conservative MPs who have signed critical Commons Early Day motions.

The Prime Minister and Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, who has responsibility for the disputed proposals, had been hoping that the number of MPs prepared to vote against the Government or to abstain would be far lower than 150.

But reports from Whips as MPs returned from the weekend in their constituencies were not encouraging for Sir Keith and Mrs. Thatcher, who gave him her firm support in the Commons last week.

Alternatives sought
So, yesterday Ministers began examining options for finding the sum involved—£30 million—from elsewhere in the Government's reviewed public expenditure plans for the 1985-86 financial year.

There were discussions between the Treasury and the Education Department. The situation will be reviewed tomorrow after Mr. Thatcher returns from the F.E.C. summit to Dublin and before a Commons debate on Thursday about the public expenditure review, which would end the education budget.

Before leaving London for Dublin the Prime Minister was adamant that the public expenditure total should not be increased.

Sir Keith wants the cutback from grants to go towards scientific research. After he had met officers of the Conservative backbench education committee last night, one possible compromise being discussed was a resurrection of a plan for student loans.

Sir Keith said to be in "very conciliatory mood" spoke of trying to draw funds from private industry to help scientific research.

1922 meeting
Sir Keith, who has favoured a loans scheme for some time, apparently spoke of the possibility of offering students mixed loans — part grant-part loan. A student could have two years at college grant-aided but would have to finance the third year.

Sir Keith is expected to have further discussions with Conservative MPs today, possibly culminating in a meeting with the 1922 Committee of backbenchers.

Joseph sees students—P2.

NO CASH PHONES

"No cash" public telephones, on which calls can be made worldwide by using Visa, Access and American Express credit cards, are to be installed at Heathrow Airport early next year.

'AFFABLE' DUBLIN MEETING

By KENNETH CLARKE in Dublin

MRS THATCHER and Dr Garret FitzGerald, Irish Premier, appeared last night to have resumed cordial relations after a couple of chilly weeks since their talks at Chequers.

They had an informal meeting at Dublin Castle, when Common Market leaders, assembled for their two-day summit, will meet again privately today. British sources said the atmosphere yesterday was "warm and affable".

Mrs Thatcher arrived by helicopter at Dublin Castle, where she spent the night. Several thousand troops and police were on full alert in the city and surface-to-air missiles guarded against an IRA air attack.

Enterprise call—P4.

BRITISH GRAIN FOR ETHIOPIA

The Government is sending 15,000 tons of grain and 13,000 blankets to Ethiopia following reports that the country's grain stocks are down to only 8,000 tons, the Overseas Development Minister, Mr. Raison, announced yesterday.

He said the cost of the latest aid would be £2,750,000, bringing Britain's total for Ethiopia and other countries to a total of £41 million this year, compared with an original provision of £15,600,000.

Supplies running out—P4; Editorial Comment—P14.

POUND SLIPS

By Our City Staff
The pound fell back another 1 cent yesterday to close at \$1.9445. Share prices improved however and the Financial Times 30 Share Index closed 7.6 higher at 924.9.

City report—P16.

KING'S GODSON DIES

Edward James, the eccentric multi-millionaire who was a godson of King Edward VII, died on Sunday at San Remo, Italy. He was 71.

Obituary—P15.

BRITISH PLEDGE

By Our Brussels Correspondent
Britain has given Belgium an undertaking that it will not take over the contract if Belgium decides to cancel a deal to build two nuclear power plants in Libya.

Today's Weather

GENERAL SITUATION: Ridge will move E. as frontal troughs move into W. areas from Atlantic.

London: S.E. E. N.E. FOGGY. Early fog patches, sunnier periods, then cloudy, perhaps rain late evening. Wind S.W. to S. light, becoming fresh. Max. 50F (10C), Min. 39F (4C).

SW. ENGLAND, MIDLANDS, IRELAND: S. Fog patches at first, becoming cloudy, evening rain. Wind variable, light, becoming S. fresh. 50F (10C).

SW. ENGLAND, WALES: Rain at times. Wind S. light, becoming fresh or strong. 32F (0C).

N. IRELAND: Outbreaks of rain, locally heavy, clearer, drier later. Wind S. moderate, increasing strong to gale. 48F (9C).

S. NORTH SEA, STRAIT OF DOVER, ENGLAND: Wind S. or S.W., force 4. Sea slight.

ST. GEORGE'S CH. (Irish Sea): S. 15 or 4 increasing 6-7 in gale. 50F (10C) becoming very rough.

OUTLOOK: Changeable. Weather Maps—P24.

NUM delegates vote for total defiance

By MAURICE WEAVER Industrial Staff

AN emergency delegate conference of the miners' union decided last night to continue its defiance of the courts and called on the TUC general council to "mobilise industrial action" in support.

Mr Arthur Scargill, NUM president, said afterwards: "The TUC now has a choice. It can either be in contempt of the law or in contempt of its membership."

But the voting, both at the delegate conference and at the meeting of the 25-man national executive committee which preceded it, revealed that the union was more deeply split than at any time since the strike began.

The national executive had recommended an 11-6 vote, with abstentions—thus, while the strike would continue, money sent to NUM should be repatriated voluntarily to placate the judges and, it was hoped, persuade them to call off the receiver appointed to run the union's affairs.

Confrontation goes on
Immediately afterwards, however, the 120 delegates brushed that proposal aside in a card vote which decided 139,000 to 80,000 in favour of an amendment from the militant Kent area which maintained the union on its course of confrontation with the courts. The union will:

Costume: withholding the £200,000 imposed for contempt of the High Court in October.

Refuse to take any other steps to purge the contempt.

Decide to give any assistance to the sequestrators appointed to seize its funds or the receiver put in to manage its finances.

Press on with the 30-week strike and urge the TUC to persuade other unions to take industrial action in its support.

The 24-hour delegate conference, held in the basement of the TUC headquarters in London, ended in what looked like a sweeping victory for the union's hard-liners.

But the unequivocal nature of the declaration will inevitably make many wavering strikers reconsider their position and could give fresh impetus to the drift back.

It also puts the TUC back in the hot seat with the knowledge that it has up to now been totally unable to deliver the kind of backstop Mr Scargill demands.

Despite the NUM leader's attempts to emphasise the implications for other unions of the High Court orders, and of the appointment of a receiver in Continued on Back P. Col 3

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INDEX TO OTHER PAGES	
Page	Page
Art: Sings ... 15	Leader: Page ... 14
Art: Notices ... 16	Obituaries ... 15
Berlin: Marriages and ... 17	Parliamentary Report ... 9
Deaths ... 18	Personal ... 12
City: News 12, 18, 19, 20 ... 21	Rain: Review ... 10
City: Prices ... 16	Sport ... 23, 24, 25 and 26
Count and Social ... 13	TV and Radio ... 27
Entertainments Guide ... 27	Way of the World ... 12
	Woman's Page ... 13

3-FOOT 'SPIKE' DROPPED ON TO EXPLOSIVES VAN

By JAMES O'BRIEN

A THREE-FOOT copper earthing rod was dropped from a railway bridge in North Derbyshire yesterday and penetrated the reinforced cab roof of a Coal Board van carrying explosives.

Police set up a 20-strong investigation team and were treating the inquiry as a case of attempted murder.

It follows the killing of Mr. David Wilkie, a South Wales taxi driver whose car was hit by concrete blocks as he took a miner to work last Friday.

In yesterday's attack the van, driven by a miner, was on its way to a colliery near Chesterfield.

The rod, similar to the type used by British Rail crews to earth electric cables during maintenance work, was dropped at about 8.30 a.m. at Slinging Mill Bridge where the railway line crosses the Straley, Renishaw road.

Police made a search of the trackside and near the railway bridge and found a collection of missiles on the bridge. They included concrete posts, lumps of metal, stones and metal track pins.

When the rod penetrated the van roof with a third driver and his mate, thought their van had been hit by a brick.

Saved by screw

On arrival at Renishaw they discovered the rod sticking from the cab roof.

If not for a screw a few inches from the threaded end of the rod, it would, according to police, have dropped into the cab.

The driver, who returned to work three weeks ago, said: "We heard a bang and thought someone had thrown a brick. It has happened before."

"At the colliery we saw this rod sticking out of the roof. Remembering what had happened in South Wales we were shaken."

The van had been specially designed to withstand road

accident damage to protect its consignments of explosives. The 100lb of explosives carried in the van were without their electrical detonators and were not in danger of exploding. They were for use underground in shooting operations.

Det. Chief Insp. Sandy McGilivray, head of Chesterfield CID, said: "This is a very serious matter. Those could not be charged with attempted murder, although the intention may have been to stop the vehicle and then cause terrible damage. It is difficult to say what was in the minds of the men responsible."

"It was only the nut on the end of the rod that stopped it going through the roof and into the cab causing very serious injuries. About 60 men are now working at Renishaw Park colliery, which employs 580."

Mr Edward Horton, deputy director of the NCB North Derbyshire area, said: "It is incredible after the incident in South Wales that anyone should resort to a premeditated attack with a weapon like this."

£400 CAR DAMAGE CASE REMAND

Stephen John Rees, 26, an assistant colliery surveyor, was remanded on bail until Jan. 7 by local magistrates yesterday accused of being involved with others in causing £400 damage to a car.

Mr Huw Rogers, prosecuting, said the case involved an incident on Nov. 21 when a car collided with sections of two telegraph poles on the main road between Llanelli and Pont-y-nant, near Cynheidre colliery.

253 more miners break the strike

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

A **NOTHER** 253 miners gave up the strike yesterday. Although this is only a quarter of the number who went back to work on Monday last week, it is more than twice as many as were reporting back on Mondays before the November upsurge.

The pattern of returning strikers over recent months has been for the Monday figure to be about half the final weekly total.

After more than 15,000 miners returned during November in time to collect back pay and bonuses before Christmas, the Coal Board was expecting a fall until the New Year, and considers the numbers coming back as still respectable.

There were record day-shift attendance in two regions which were for a long time badly on strike.

NCB strike statistics

COAL BOARD regions gave the following figures yesterday for pits working and on strike, and for the number of miners at work. These figures do not take account of "new starters" at coal products plants, development sites, or returning members of the NCB's clerical section.

Region	Normal working	Strikes	Miners working	Miners on strike	Total
South East	2	11	25	2,242	2,267
N. East	15	2	51	3,990	3,990
N. Yorks	12	12	12	15,000	15,000
Doncaster	10	4	4	135	135
Barnsley	14	2	5	599	599
S. Yorks	14	1	37	1,638	1,638
N. Derby	7	2	57	4,278	4,278
Notts	25	—	—	28,500	28,500
S. Midlands	10	1	4	8,110	8,110
W. Midlands	9	7	24	11,012	11,012
S. Wales	—	7	21	127	127
South	—	3	—	115	115



Mr David Williams, the miner whose taxi driver was killed last Friday, being driven to Merthyr Vale colliery yesterday by Mr Jeff Tree, proprietor of the taxi firm.

UNITED IN GRIEF

By COLIN RANDALL

ON a gloomy, rain-swept picket line about half a mile from the site of the school flattened in the Aberfan disaster, miners and police united yesterday to honour Mr David Wilkie and others who have died during the pit strike.

For a minute before dawn, they stood silently with heads bowed in the freezing rain at the entrance to the Merthyr Vale Colliery to which Mr Wilkie, a Cardiff taxi driver, was taking a working miner when he was killed on Friday.

The miners' union lodge secretary, Mr Bill Klox, a cloth-capped and avuncular figure, commanded respect from miners and police chiefs alike had climbed on to a low wall to appeal for a short silence in memory of "all those who have died" including the two boys buried while coal picking.

A little later, a series of headlights appeared out of the darkness. This was the signal for both sides to resume their roles as two strike-breaking miners arrived for work under heavy police escort.

Yelled abuse

The 153 police officers easily held back the slightly smaller group of pickets who yelled abusive abuse or tried to force a way through the cordon.

One of the working miners was Mr David Williams, who was the back-seat passenger when Mr Wilkie was killed by a slab of concrete which smashed through his taxi windshield.

Mr Williams was taken to the pit with his back-to-work colleague, Mr Tony Dudley, in a minibus driven by Mr Wilkie's boss, Mr Jeff Tree, 41.

With three police vehicles providing an escort, the convoy took a route which avoided the bridge from which concrete objects were dropped on Friday.

Mr Klox said: "We would never condone anything like Friday's incident."

"We are deeply sorry about the taxi driver's death but it will not diminish our determination to continue our struggle."

"The villages of Merthyr Vale and Aberfan are no strangers to bereavement — don't you think we have already paid a high price for this pit?"

2 MINERS 'PUT BOOT IN' COURT TOLD

Two Kent miners "put the boot in" to a police dog handler on duty at Wivenhoe Dock, Mr John Devaux, prosecuting, said at Exeter Crown Court yesterday.

Terence French, 34, of Celtic Road, Deal, and Christopher Davey, 20, of Southwell Road, Deal, denied causing a grievous bodily harm and an alternative charge of causing actual bodily harm.

Mr Devaux said a picket was mounted at the port where foreign coal was being unloaded. The two men attacked Pc Iao Learmouth, 26, he said. The case was adjourned until today.

I'll sue party, says Labour Chief Whip

By VALERIE ELLIOTT Political Staff

IN an extraordinary move, Mr Michael Cocks, Labour's Chief Whip, has threatened to sue his own party for apparent failure to investigate alleged breaches of procedure by his constituency party in Bristol South.

The threat was contained in a solicitors' letter delivered by hand to Labour party headquarters on Thursday.

It said that Mr Cocks and two Labour officials in Bristol South, Mr Fred Fidgeon and Mr Ray Westaway, would issue proceedings against the party's National Executive unless some action was taken about their complaints within seven days.

They are challenging the validity of elections held and decisions made at the constituency party annual meeting held in March and April following procedural discrepancies.

Inquiry call

Mr Cocks has faced considerable pressure from his constituency party since he defeated Mr Wedgwood Benn for the party's nomination as candidate for Bristol South, which takes in a large part of Mr Benn's former Bristol South East seat, removed by boundary changes.

He is convinced that the new officers, whom he regards as unlawfully elected, are determined to oust him as the prospective Labour Parliamentary candidate for the General Election.

Yesterday Labour MPs tried to head off a public clash with their Chief Whip. At the party's organisation sub-committee meeting, Mr Cocks said he would refer the matter for inquiry by the appeals and mediation committee, chaired by Mr Ken Cure.

During their discussion there were anxious exchanges. Mr Benn, now MP for Chesterfield, said: "I was surprised the Chief Whip should resort to legal action."

Mr Cocks said last night: "It is drastic action to have to take, and it is action I am not happy to take. But it is the only way I could see in resolving a very difficult situation."

He said they were particularly frustrated by the fact that the NEC had referred the matter back twice despite a recommendation of the appeals and mediation subcommittee on May 14 that an inquiry be held into the complaints and pending the result of the inquiry, that officers elected at the annual meeting be suspended.

ORGANISER OF BALL CLEARED

The organiser of an Oxford college ball which drew dozens of complaints about noise was cleared last night by the city magistrates of failing to comply with a noise abatement notice.

Christopher Norman, 21, a third-year engineering student, of St Thomas Street, Winchester, said he had done everything a council environmental health officer had ordered to reduce the noise during the ball at Leicester College.

DOLE FRAUD SWOOP ABANDONED

By GUY RAIS

STAFF at a Westminster employment office refused to co-operate with detectives and social security investigators who arrived unannounced at their office to trap dole swindlers.

The carefully planned exercise last week had to be abandoned and only two arrests were made.

The incident angered police and embarrassed senior officials at the Department of Employment and the DfES.

The exercise was aimed at catching a large number of young people allegedly claiming unemployment benefit and social security in the Pimlico area.

The DfES stated that, nationally, as many as 64 per cent of social security claimants picked out as suspicious were found on investigation to have made fraudulent claims.

Methods criticised

Last week after the arrival of the squad at the employment office in Chadwick Street, about 50 staff stopped work to hold a meeting, complaining of the investigation methods.

A Department of Employment spokesman said: "The staff were unhappy at the way that people were being identified to a queue."

They thought this would upset the public but they were prepared to allow the investigation to continue in a less obvious way. There was no suggestion that they would take strike action."

PLAN TO EXTEND FREE MEALS

Nottinghamshire county council is planning to provide the children of striking miners with meals during the Christmas school holidays, as it did during summer and at half-term.

In July the council authorised a fund of £150,000 to be set up to cover the cost of free meals during school holidays and so far only £21,000 has been spent.

200 LOSE JOBS

Another 200 jobs are to be shed from the Rank Xerox factory at Mitcheldean, Glos. The firm, which makes photocopiers, said yesterday 84 of the jobs will go by February and the rest by the end of October. At present there are 1,400 on the payroll compared with more than 4,000 at the beginning of 1979.

£30m SHIPYARD ORDER

By Our Shipping Correspondent

THE British Steel Corporation is to give a £30 million boost to the Harland & Wolff shipyard in Belfast by ordering a 170,000-ton bulk carrier to be built there.

Harland completed the biggest bulk carrier built in Europe for British Steel earlier this year.

The Belfast yard is rapidly emerging as the most successful part of the British merchant shipbuilding business. It is not part of British Shipbuilders, but it is State-owned via the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce.

It has been revitalised by Mr John Parker, chairman and chief executive, who was deputy chief executive of British Shipbuilders until last year. Losses are being cut, orders woo and ships delivered on time.

Outstanding debt

Figures just released for the financial year 1983-84 show that the annual loss was reduced to under £30 million, for more than £45 million the previous year.

Harland's outstanding debt still totals nearly £250 million but with a full order book and a smaller specialised workforce Mr Parker expects the shipyard — once Belfast's biggest employer — will slash its overdraft even further in the present financial year.

Other work in the Belfast yard includes four sophisticated refrigerated cargo vessels for Bina Star and a specialised oil drilling ship for British Petroleum.

Queueing for information

Shipyard workers at Swan Hunter on the Tyne, where 2,100 jobs are to go because of falling orders, are queueing up to inquire about voluntary redundancy.

NEW CHANNEL ISLANDS FERRY SERVICE

By Our Shipping Correspondent

A rival car ferry service is to be started on the Portsmouth-Channel Islands route following Sealink's decision to more than double its fares on the run next year, increasing the ordinary adult return from £25 to £116.

It will operate as Channel Island Ferries and be a joint venture of the islands-based Huelin Group and Brittany Ferries.

UNION CARDS

Thousands of greeting cards with the face of Mr Scargill on the front have gone on sale, fusing a message which says: "As democratically elected leader of this union I have given a clear mandate by the vast majority of my members to wish you a very merry Christmas." They are made in Cheltenham.

Britain's signs of growth in 1985 'best in EEC'

By ALAN OSBORN Common Market Correspondent

BRITAIN is leading the Common Market's economic growth recovery prospects for 1985, according to figures submitted to the EEC summit meeting in Dublin by the Brussels EEC Commission.

In its submission on the economic situation in the EEC, the commission says that the recovery of growth of output will continue in 1985.

It will stem "mainly from improved" or "maintained" growth in the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and perhaps Denmark.

Mrs Thatcher last night warmly approved the analysis. She said it was the best account of the British economy she had ever seen from the commission.

Figures submitted by the commission to the summit show that economic growth in Britain is put at 3 per cent in 1985. This is the highest growth rate in the Community according to the EEC experts. The average for the EEC is 2.5 per cent.

But overall the EEC economic growth rate is said to be "unlikely to accelerate appreciably" next year. The economies "of all the member states must return progressively to a permanently higher growth curve which will create more jobs."

Controlling inflation

The commission experts say that for the future monetary policies "steering clear of any acceleration in inflation must be maintained."

They say that "public expenditure should be cut back and efforts to reduce deficits should be pursued."

Mrs Thatcher, in welcoming the recommendation by "the commission," said it amounted to a vote of confidence in the economic policies pursued by the Chancellor, Mr Lawson.

On unemployment the commission's findings were not optimistic. It said it was still worsening, though next year it could stabilise or even fall slightly in some countries.

Germany, Britain and Denmark.

On inflation, the commission said that this would probably slow still further in 1985, for the EEC as a whole.

But it did predict a rise from 5.1 to 5.6 per cent, in the British rate.

State guarantees for student loans urged

By JOHN IZBICKI Education Correspondent

STUDENTS should be allowed to run up overdrafts of up to £2,000, with the Government underwriting half the amount, the Right-of-Centre Adam Smith Institute has suggested as a solution to the crisis over student grant cuts.

Grants received from the State and parental contributions should be deducted from the £2,000 ceiling, the economic think tank says in a five-page memorandum submitted to Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary.

A student receiving a £1,000-a-year grant and £400 from his parents, would, for example, be able to borrow £600 from the bank of which the Government would underwrite £300.

The institute, which is chaired by Prof. Friedrich Hayek, the economist, and has an advisory board comprising some of the country's leading dons, also wants more students to work their way through college.

"Extravagant" care

This would mean universities and polytechnics opening up to students many jobs such as cleaning, catering, portering, gardening and even administration on campuses.

"Between one-third and a half of American students today have a term-time job. Most of these jobs are on the campus itself. A very high proportion make some contribution to the costs of their education by vacation work," the memorandum says.

It criticises the "extravagant" level of care shown to British students by thousands of clerical and manual employees who

VEGETARIAN CASE PUT TO BUTCHERS

By GODFREY BROWN Agriculture Correspondent

VEGETARIANS, who on Sunday staged a noisy protest outside the Smithfield Show against the slaughter of animals for meat, were invited yesterday to argue their case with butchers at a special seminar organised by the Guild of Agricultural Journalists.

Mrs Rose Elliot, a leading vegetarian writer, claimed most children had to be taught to eat meat. A generation of "rather clear-eyed teenagers" was growing up who questioned the hypocrisy of meat eating, she said.

Young people of 16-24 years made up nearly one-third of the 1,100,000 vegetarians in Britain.

Dr Alan Long, research adviser to the Vegetarian Society, said Britain was becoming a nation of "constipated, toothless fatheads," but people had now come to realise that "fat, whether on your waist or your plate," was bad.

Watch on quotas

Earlier Mr Jonathan, Agriculture Minister, advised Britain's dairy farmers to keep a careful watch on both their production costs, and how the Common Market quota limits on milk output are working out in Britain.

For under the quota system Britain operated in the British mainland, he told a Royal Smithfield Show Press conference it was technically possible for a dairy farmer to produce more than his quota entitlement, and that he had to pay a "penalty" for over-quota production.

The EEC has introduced to make the excess output an economic.

This was a matter of individual judgment, he stressed, and he insisted that farmers to over-quot their quota limits.

JOSEPH MEETS NUS
Legal case proposed

SARAH THOMPSON, EDUCATION STAFF, writes: Sir Keith offered to sign of climbing down over the cuts, when he met officers of the National Union of Students for the first time yesterday. But he said he would consider their suggestion for legislation forcing parents to contribute towards the cost of their children's university or college education.

At present, parental contributions are voluntary and the NUS claims that 47 per cent of students do not receive the help from parents to which they are entitled.

Sir Keith also promised to look at the idea put forward by Philip Woolas, NUS president, that the age at which students are considered "independent" should be lowered from 25 to 18.



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Singapore '85

ENVOY WRECKS CAREER IN £1,300 PERKS FIDDLE

By GERALD BARTLETT

A SENIOR diplomat was given an eight-week suspended jail sentence at Bow Street yesterday for fiddling a £1,300 expenses claim—an offence which has wrecked his 30-year career.

JAMES GILMARTIN, 48, who has a daughter at Cambridge and a son in the R.A.F., wrote in a letter to his superiors: "I was under the totally misguided conception that subsistence allowances were perks of the job everyone got away with."

Until his recall last month he was First Secretary at the British Consulate in Singapore, earning £13,500 a year plus expenses.

From Nov. 20 to Dec. 20 last year he was on a consular course in London while on leave between overseas postings.

He claimed he was living at his in-laws' home in Northumberland and staying at the Civil Service Club in Great Scotland Yard, said Mr GERALD ADAMS, prosecuting.

Living at home

In fact, he was living at his home in Riversmead Park, Hertford, and commuting daily. After finding no record of Gilmartin at the Civil Service Club, the Foreign Office asked for receipts.

Gilmartin said he had used a friend's name because he was not a member, and had destroyed the receipts.

He also produced an untrue letter from an estate agent

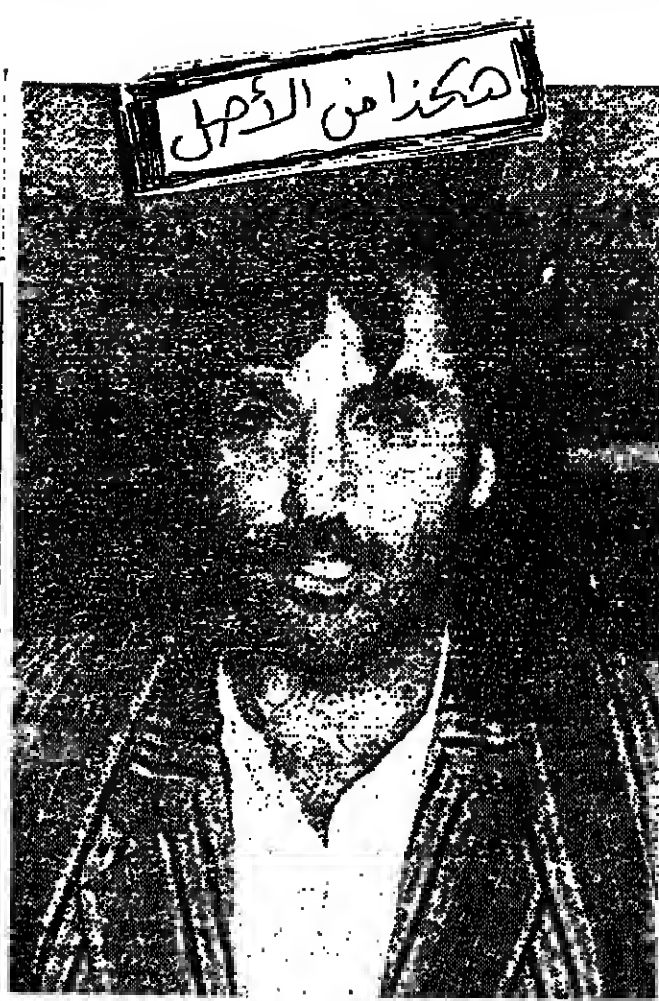
claiming he had let his home during the relevant period. Yesterday he admitted three charges.

The British High Commissioner in Singapore, Sir Peter Moon, who flew to London from holiday in France told the court that Gilmartin had been "hard working, conscientious and entirely reliable."

Mr RICHARD ONISLOW, defending Gilmartin, said the fraud had cost him 30 years of service in the Foreign Office—where he was highly regarded—a criminal record and his pension.

In fact Gilmartin, who worked in the Diplomatic Service in the West Indies, the United States, Uganda and Yugoslavia, remains suspended from duty on full pay until he appears before a Diplomatic Service disciplinary board, which can recommend anything from admonition to dismissal.

A Foreign Office spokesman said last night: "Sir Peter's journey to London would have been made in a private capacity and will not involve the Government in any expense."



George Best on his way to Bow Street.

George Best sent to prison, then freed on bail

By GUY RAIN

GEORGE BEST, 38, the former footballer, was freed on bail by a High Court judge yesterday pending his appeal against a 12-week prison sentence imposed on him a few hours earlier for a drink-driving charge, assaulting a policeman and failing to answer bail.

Best applied to the judge for bail after it was refused by Mr WILLIAM ROBINS, the stipendiary magistrate at Bow Street.

There were gasps from the crowded public gallery and a grimace from Best as the sentence was pronounced by Mr Robins. He told Best: "I regard any assault on the police as an extremely grave matter. Those who commit it do so at their peril."

"I see no reason to distinguish your case from others because you happen to have a well-known name."

Erratic driving

The court was told that Best, who pleaded guilty to all the charges, had been convicted of drink-driving and disqualified for a year in 1975.

Miss AMANDA PUGH, prosecuting, said Best was arrested in Queen's Gardens, outside Buckingham Palace, at about 1.20 a.m. on Nov. 5 after police had seen him driving erratically in The Mall.

He was taken to Cannon Row police station where a Lion intoximeter test showed he had 112 mc. of alcohol in 100 ml. of breath—77 mc. above the legal limit.

Best was bailed to appear at Bow Street later that day, but failed to arrive, and an arrest warrant was issued.

The following day a police officer went to Best's flat in Oakley Street, Chelsea. After being told that Best would be

down in a few minutes the policeman spotted him going into a house further down the street.

The door was later opened by a woman and with the help of a Special Patrol Group unit to the area, Best was arrested.

"As Best was led to a police van he braced himself against the door of the van. Eventually his grip was broken and he was put inside," said Miss Pugh.

"Then in the van Best started to struggle and tried to get out. He punched one of the officers in the face—PC Thomas Lazenby—and was then handcuffed and taken to Chelsea police station."

When the assault charge was put to him, Best collapsed and had to be taken to hospital. Miss Pugh said that in January, 1975, Best had been fined £200 and banned from driving for a year on a drink-driving charge.

Mr CHRISTOPHER ERVING, defending the former Manchester United and Northern Ireland footballer, said Best had been an alcoholic since 1970. He had tried to overcome the problem by visiting an American clinic and hospitals in Britain.

Best had failed to answer bail on the day of his arrest because he had overslept. "He was tired, under the influence of alcohol and there was no intent to avoid responsibility to the court."

Later in the High Court, Mr JUSTICE SKINNER, sitting in private, granted bail on a surety of £500 from Best's personal manager, William Mr. Mardor.

The judge made it a condition that Best should report in Chelsea police station every Wednesday evening until his appeal is heard.

Silent bullion raiders go down for 25 years

By IAN HENRY Old Bailey Correspondent

THE two men convicted on Sunday of the £27 million Brink's Mat robbery stood up in the Old Bailey dock yesterday, offered no plea of mitigation, said "No, thank you" when asked if they had anything to say, and grinned as they went down for 25 years.

MICHAEL McAVOY and BRIAN ROBINSON took with them the secret of what happened to the fortune in gold, diamonds, platinum and cheques.

The pair, each an established underworld figure, also expected to be interrogated by detectives in jail.

Police hope the possibility of earlier parole to shorten their sentence—five years less than the Great Train Robbers got—could be enough to make them talk.

The size of the haul is far more than the two raiders ever expected. Unknown to them, a vast amount of valuables had been delivered to the warehouse near Heathrow the night before the raid on Nov. 26 last year.

Witnesses investigated The gaggle—believed to be half-a-dozen strong—had been given a gate key by a corrupt security guard, Anthony Black, who lived with Robinson's sister. He is now serving six years.

The raiders doused staff with a petrol-and-water mixture and threatened to set them ablaze unless they opened the vault. Judge DAVID TUNOY, P.C., Common Serjeant recommended an inquiry by the Director of Public Prosecutions into the evidence of three witnesses at the 21-day trial of McAvoy, a 32-year-old builder of Beckenham Road, East Dulwich, and Robinson, 41, a car dealer, of Rolling Street, Lewisham.

PETER KILLICK, MICHAEL CARR, and SEAN McDERMOTT all provided an alibi for McAvoy. Judge Tudor Price was made High Court judge of the Queen's Bench yesterday morning, and was due to take up his new duties. But as the jury had brought in its verdict on Sunday he had to return to the Old Bailey yesterday to pass sentence.

CHAUFEUR'S RAPE ATTEMPT AT WEDDING A German prince's chauffeur was jailed for 2½ years at Oxford Crown Court yesterday for trying to rape a guest at a society wedding. Peter Neumann, 35, sexually attacked the woman after she was deserted by her boyfriend.

Neumann, a father of two, of Crofton Park Road, Lewisham, who was employed by a company in Belgravia, had driven Prince Furstenberg to the reception after the wedding of Count Leopold Bismarck, great-grandson of the German statesman, at Astor Rowant, Oxfordshire, in June.

He admitted attempting to rape the 26-year-old woman in the back of his Ford Dorester car, after offering to give her a lift. Mr Justice Hutchinson said Neumann had "subjected her to a terrifying ordeal."

ARREST CASE CITIZEN ARRESTED Peter Scofield, who made a citizen's arrest when he saw three people in his garden, was himself arrested and kept in custody by police while the two women and a man he detained were bailed by police pending inquiries. Highbury Court heard yesterday.

"I couldn't believe it when I got arrested," Scofield, 35, of Highbury New Park, Highbury, said after he had been bound over in the sum of £50 to keep the peace.

"He told the court he had been the victim of several thefts and had bought a 'starring pistol' when he saw the three in his garden he fired the gun into the air and grabbed the man by the collar," the magistrate, Mr David Barr, said. "You overreacted. This was a very nasty thing to do."

BOMBS HOAX WOMAN GETS THREE YEARS A 31-year-old married woman who caused chaos with five hoax bomb calls over a four-week period was jailed for three years at Salisbury Crown Court yesterday.

Mrs Sonia Nightingale claimed bombs were about to explode at a cinema, theatre, electricity showrooms and the railway station at Salisbury, and at Bristol's Christadelphian Hall.

Nightingale, formerly of Amesbury, Wiltshire, now staying at a Bristol probation hostel, was said to have made 14 previous court appearances for other bomb hoaxes, attempted arson and threats to kill, among other offences.

BEER SURGE Beer production in October was more than 100 million pints up on the same month last year, indicating that the trade was stocking early for Christmas, said a spokesman for the Brewers' Society yesterday.

Mercy for son, 19, who killed bullying mother

A QUIET 19-year-old who strangled his alcoholic bully of a mother walked free from the Old Bailey yesterday for a tearful reunion with his 17-year-old sister, who had shared years of misery with him at the hands of their 15-stone tormentor.

Despite constant abuse and beatings, GLENN WALTON, a printer, had remained "loyal and loving" to the mother, and had done everything he could try to help her, the court was told.

He hid money from 54-year-old Mrs PATRICIA WALTON, and toured local off-licences begging them out to sell her drink.

Neither he nor sister, JANE, could bring friends home to their flat on the Kirby estate, Rotherhithe, because their mother's behaviour made it "a filthy hotel," said Mr VICTOR DUNAWAY, Q.C., defending.

On the June day on which she died, Mrs Walton was so drunk she could not even light her own cigarette. She threw lit matches about the flat, and attacked an ambulance man who tried to help her.

As she lay in bed, shouting abuse, her son grabbed her neck. Fifteen minutes later neighbours saw him come out with "his arms stretched out in front of him as if asking for something in an appealing way."

He told his sister, "We've got to get out of here. She's killing me and didn't want to see me again. I didn't mean to hurt her."

School taunts Mr Durand produced a petition from 200 neighbours asking for leniency for Glenn.

Because of their mother's drinking, both children had been in care as babies, and when they returned she beat them regularly. Glenn had to change schools because of taunts about his mother.

Their father, a hard-working and decent man, tried to protect them. But when he died of cancer on June 1 they had no one to turn to.

Fifteen days later Glenn's patience snapped. Yesterday he admitted manslaughter, putting him on probation for two years, the Recorder of London, Sir James Mouslin, Q.C., said. "Provocation completely deprived you of all self control. You and your sister suffered years of misery."

The youngsters now live in a flat provided by the council. It was said that Mr Durand, their first clean and happy home.

MURDERS CASE 'LIKE HITCHCOCK' DAVID CARTY, accused of murdering two teenage sweethearts, disposed of their bodies because he feared he would be blamed for the killings, said Miss HELENA KENNEDY, defending at the Old Bailey yesterday.

It was a situation, with "a horrible Hitchcock quality," she said. Carty, 18, discovered the bodies of his friend Robert Vaughan and Michelle Sadler, both 17, and gut blood on his hands when he touched Robert, said Miss Kennedy.

Carty, who is black, feared the police and thought he would be accused of the murders, she said. So he cleaned up the blood. From that moment there was no turning back.

Carty loaded the bodies into a trolley and wheeled them in the early hours to a children's playground, where he left them in a builder's dumper truck.

Saturday overtime Robert, the court heard earlier, had been working Saturday overtime with Carty at their employer's rented premises in Union Street, Southwark, in February. Michelle had been helping.

Carty, of Linsey Street, Rotherhithe, pleaded not guilty to murder, claiming he left the couple to go shopping, and found them both dead when he returned.

Mr JUSTICE KENNETH JONES, summing up, told the jury: "The outstanding question is why did the murderer kill these two young people? There has been virtually no light thrown upon it at all."

The trial was adjourned until today. POP SINGER IS FINED AGAIN Marilyn, the male pop singer, was fined for driving offences yesterday for the second time in a week after he was caught speeding on the A5 in Hampshire. Magistrates at Basingstoke fined him £135 for driving without reasonable consideration and speeding.

Summing up under his real name of Peter Robinson, Magistrates did not appear before the court but his solicitor pleaded guilty on his behalf. Last week he was fined £50 by magistrates at Highbury for failing to stop at a red light and not producing his insurance and driving licence.

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You must be over 18 to have a personal loan. Security may be required, but if it is there is no charge to the customer for legal fees.

But we think you should start by finding out where people work the hardest in return for your custom. In any Williams & Glyn's branch you will find a leaflet giving full details of our personal loans, and the staff will be happy to give you any further information you require. And of course, they will treat you as what you are. A paying customer.

Alternatively write to Williams & Glyn's Bank plc, Department PL, FREEPOST London EC3B 3LP.

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ETHIOPIA'S FAMINE AIRLIFT RUNNING SHORT OF GRAIN

By R. BARRY O'BRIEN in Addis Ababa

THE RAF completed its first month's operation in the Ethiopian famine airlift with a slack day yesterday, the Hercules transports making only three flights instead of their normal six to eight.

There were only three loads of high-protein biscuits for the two C-130 planes to carry to drought-stricken regions of north Ethiopia, an hour's flight from the capital, Addis Ababa.

After an early-morning sortie flying two loads to Wollo Province, the aircraft waited more than three hours at Addis Ababa for their next load.

There was no more grain at the airport to be flown north for distribution to famine victims and feeding centres in Axum, Gondar, Korem and Makalle.

The last of the grain was flown to Gondar in five flights by the RAF on Saturday and there has been no more since from the fast-dwindling stocks in Ethiopian Government warehouses.

The two Hercules carried milk powder to Alamata airport on Sunday for the Korem famine centre, providing emergency feeding for more than 30,000 famine victims. Yesterday, after the early-morning load of biscuits for Alamata, the RAF crews did not know what they would be carrying.

Flight Nigel Pollack sat by a telephone in the RAF operations tent waiting for news of the next load. This is the first day we have run into delays," he said.

343 flights

Aircrew relaxed in canvas chairs reading newspapers from the sergeant's mess at RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire, including The Daily Telegraph and the SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER flown in weekly with the ration.

On the opposite side of the runway four Soviet Aeroflot

Antonov-12 transports in the famine airlift also stood idle, sacking covering the cockpit windows to keep the burning sun off the flight deck.

Eventually, after 2 p.m., a load of high-protein biscuits arrived and one of the Hercules took off for Alamata.

Since the RAF airlift began on Nov. 4, the two Hercules had carried by yesterday 1,350 tons of supplies in 343 flights. The loads included 1,530 tons of grain with the balance made up of high-protein biscuits, flour, blankets, medical supplies and some vehicles.

For the first two weeks the two aircraft were moving grain from the Red Sea port of Assab to feeding centres in the north, each making three or four flights a day.

But a Hercules carried the RAF's last load of grain from Assab on Monday last week. Canadian and American wheat piled in sacks at Addis Ababa airport which kept the RAF busy last week is now also confirming the prediction of Ethiopian officials that the airlift would eventually run out of grain.

Victims destitute

RAF men said yesterday that in the early days of the airlift they had worked in a load schedule planned three days ahead but now did not know until each morning what they would be carrying.

But Flight Lt Pollack told reporters there was no question of the two Hercules and 60-strong detachment from Nos. 24, 30, 47 and 70 Squadrons at RAF Lyneham being withdrawn even if supply loads temporarily dry up.

Thatcher call for revival of enterprise

By Our Common Market Correspondent in Dublin

A POSITIVE new approach to the challenge of industrial enterprise in the world by the Common Market countries was called for yesterday by Mrs Thatcher.

Why have we, the nations of enterprise, lost the spirit of enterprise?" the Prime Minister asked other Heads of Government at the start of the EEC Summit in Dublin yesterday.

Mrs Thatcher noted that both the United States and Japan with lower wage costs than in the EEC had created many new jobs in new industries, while the EEC countries lagged behind.

It was necessary to create a genuine internal market within the EEC that matched those of its competitors and allowed companies to compete on the same scale, she said.

But Mrs Thatcher seemed also to be saying that there was a need for the Common Market countries to develop an educational system that brings enterprise culture into being.

Border hold-ups

Her point was that, unlike the United States and Japan, the Common Market countries did not encourage the idea of enterprise in their educational systems. She deplored this and sought Community backing for a change of attitude.

More specifically, Mrs Thatcher repeated the familiar British theme that the Community could harness its resources and meet international trade challenges by eliminating the countless barriers that frustrate trade between the ten member countries.

These include bureaucratic hold-ups at borders, endless formalities by customs officials and the tiresome business of satisfying national authorities that imports are safe, legal and to all was acceptable when they come from other Common Market members.

If these barriers could be overcome then the Community could develop into a genuine free market that in size and influence would match the United States and Japan and allow the development of European technology on a real international scale.

Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister and President of yesterday's Summit, said these ideas were generally accepted by other members of the Ten.

NEW ERA IN TRADE WITH RUSSIA

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

British-Soviet trade relations are moving into a new era after more than a decade of relative stagnation, East-Jellicoe, Chairman of the Overseas Trade Board, said at a Moscow Press conference yesterday.

He spoke at an exhibition by 39 British firms offering equipment based on North Sea exploration. It is hoped such expertise could aid the Russians in developing oil and gas deposits off Sakhalin in the East and the Barents Sea.

Lord Jellicoe recalled that Britain's share of the Soviet import market had fallen from 14 per cent in 1970 to three and a half per cent last year. This year the trend was rising sharply.

RUSSIAN WINTER SHOES 'IN SHORT SUPPLY'

Soviet shoppers are complaining that they cannot buy winter shoes, although store shelves are overloaded with summer sandals, Pravda said yesterday. It said it had been inundated with letters complaining that at present it was impossible to buy winter shoes while the sandals now plentiful had been scarce last summer.

President Chernenko gave the green light for more outspoken criticism of consumer goods suppliers when he complained about shortages in a speech last month and singled out the footwear industries for special censure.—Reuter.

CHERNENKO DATE FOR HAMMER

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow Dr Armand Hammer, chairman of Occidental Petroleum and an old friend of the Soviet Union, expected to meet President Chernenko in Moscow today.

With fresh disarmament talks to be held between the Soviet and American Foreign Ministers in Geneva this month, it is thought Mr Chernenko may want to give Dr Hammer a message for the Reagan Administration as it enters its second term.

'AIDS' BABY DIES

A fourth baby had died in Queensland after receiving blood contaminated by AIDS, a hospital spokesman in Brisbane said yesterday. Last month three other babies died after transfusions of blood donated by a 27-year-old male homosexual.—Reuter.

BOMB KILLS EXPERT

By Our Athens Correspondent A Greek police bomb disposal expert was killed yesterday as he tried to defuse one of three bombs found under the cars of Iraqi diplomats in Athens.



Putting the case for his New National party—its leader, Mr Herbert Blaize, a 66-year-old Grenadian lawyer, canvassing on the final day of the general election campaign.

Grenada's voters obey radio's calypso call

By DAVID SHEARS in St George's, Grenada

GRENADIANS trooped to the polls yesterday in their first general election since 1976, spurred by calypso appeals on Radio Grenada to do their civic duty.

The 43,000 registered voters headed the call. Touring polling stations I found voters queuing calmly to mark their ballots.

Mr F. C. O'Neale, a retired school principal in the village of Willis reported at mid-morning "Attendance—good, behaviour—excellent."

Willis is a typical settlement in the island's hilly heartland. Wooden houses, some little more than shacks, stand giddily on the densely-forested hillside amid the palms, banana and cocoa trees.

Goats, hens and mongrel dogs mingle with smiling children and their elders in the narrow potholed streets. Half the houses lack indoor sanitation and running water. Some have no electricity.

Voters were checked off against registration lists and handed ballots listing candidates' names alongside party symbols.

Finger dye

Mr Herbert Blaize's New National party, the moderate grouping widely tipped to win, used a house as its symbol.

Sir Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour party chose a star, the Left-wing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement picked an aeroplane and the small Christian Democratic Labour party a nutmeg, Grenada's best-known product.

Each voter was asked to dip a fingertip into a red ultraviolet dye as an added precaution against double voting.

The dye was supposedly removable for 24 hours and each polling station was supplied with a battery-operated sensor to inspect hands.

Uniformed police stood guard at every polling station, with orders to keep party workers from canvassing within 100 yards.

Status forfeited

Taxis hired by the non-partisan Trade Unionists' Civic Awareness, believed to enjoy American financial backing, ferried aged and infirm voters to the polls.

"Vote early, vote wisely," exhorted the Radio Grenada announcer. "You will vote wisely because you love Grenada."

He added, in a reference to the term of the 15-member Parliament being elected: "Five years is a very long time for a mistake."

Meanwhile, Mr Loren Lawrence, United States Ambassador, denied a report that Sir Eric Gairy's American visa had been revoked to prevent him returning to America if he is defeated.

The Ambassador said Sir Eric had automatically forfeited his American political asylum status by returning to his homeland, but if he chose to apply for a new visa, his request would be considered.

Reagan urged to make deep cuts in spending

By FRANK TAYLOR in Washington

PRESIDENT REAGAN began a series of meetings with senior economic and budget advisers yesterday as pressures mounted for prompt decisions on reducing the Federal deficit in order to maintain economic momentum.

As the first meeting began in the White House word leaked out that Mr Reagan was being urged to consider deep cuts to a number of domestic programmes that would go far beyond the budget "freeze" mentioned last week.

Mr David Stockman, Budget Director, was said to have drawn up a "menu" of cutbacks and standstills affecting many programmes ranging from medical assistance for the elderly to student grants and the inflation-linked annual increases in civil servants' pay.

Informants said that a one-year "freeze" on Government loans to small businesses as well as one on war veterans' pensions increases were also under consideration.

Politically painful

Spending cuts such as these, together with others that have not yet been detailed, are certain to be politically painful for members of Congress, many of whom already have an eye on the mid-term legislative elections in 1986.

Mr Reagan will thus have to use all his powers of persuasion to obtain swift action, something which his advisers say is essential if confidence in the economy is to be sustained.

But already some leading members of his own Republican party are saying he may have to abandon one of his key election promises—not to touch the defence budget—if a compromise is to be reached with the Democrats on across-the-board cutbacks.

Fierce opposition

In spite of fierce opposition from Mr Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, Mr Reagan may have to accept a slower increase in defence spending than planned, probably by freezing servicemen's pay, among other measures. One proposal is for reducing projected defence outlays by

\$8 billion in fiscal 1986, by \$20 billion in 1987 and \$30 billion in 1988.

Mr Weinberger is urging Mr Reagan to stick to present defence spending plans which call for an outlay of \$88 billion outlay over the next three years.

The President's main goal is to get the projected 1986 deficit of \$210 billion down by at least \$45 billion and to have a "manageable" deficit of about \$109 billion by 1988.

300 WOMEN BESIEGE NAVAL BASE

By Our Perth Correspondent

More than 300 women nuclear protesters have camped opposite the entrance to Western Australia's major naval base at Garden Island, regularly visited by American nuclear ships and submarines. Yesterday a group of the women who claim support from Greenham Common met Cmdr Warren Hamlyn to demand that Mr Scholes, Minister for Defence, should meet them to discuss stopping the American Navy visits.

While the meeting was in progress, other women tore down two Australian flags, defaced naval notices and turned adhesive signs into peace signs.

MINE AMBUSH

By Our Madrid Correspondent Three Civil Guards were injured yesterday when their vehicle was mined and then raked with gunfire by Basque terrorists near San Sebastian, Northern Spain.

DRUG EXECUTIONS

Twenty-five drug smugglers and dealers were hanged at dawn in Tehran yesterday.—Reuter.

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AMOUNT DEPOSITED..... POUNDS..... PENCE.....

I declare that the information given by me on this form is correct.

USUAL SIGNATURE.....

(If child under 7, signature of person opening account)

If you hold any other NSB Account(s), please quote account number(s):

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DEFLIANT TAMILS CHALLENGE ARMED FORCES

By DAVID GRAVES in Madras

THE Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the major group of separatist rebels responsible for the recent violence in Sri Lanka, said last night it planned to intensify its campaign.

Mr A. S. Balasingham, the rebels' official spokesman, said in Madras: "The Government seems hell-bent on a military solution, and if that is what they want they will get a military answer."

The Tigers, who have been fighting for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka for eight years, had become "disillusioned" with political talks aimed at reaching a solution to the communal violence, he said.

The realisation that the Government did not want to negotiate a peaceful solution in talks in Colombo with the Tamil United Liberation Front, the main Tamil political party, had forced the Tigers to act, he maintained.

"Our campaign will intensify until the Government realises it cannot defeat us militarily," Mr Balasingham said.

He denied that the Tigers, the largest of the Tamil guerrilla groups, had attacked civilian targets in the island over the past week.

Attacks denied
The Tigers spokesman maintained that two prison resettlement camps attacked by the group in the northern province on Poon contained serving prisoners armed by the Government to become a Sinhalese paramilitary force.

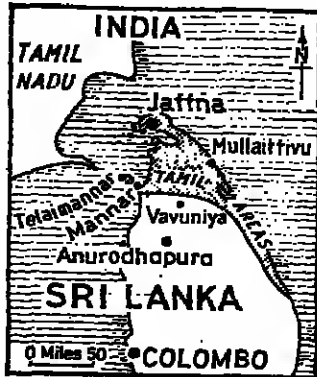
Mr Balasingham, a social scientist who worked in London for 12 years, said: "We have never attacked civilians in the past and we will never do so in the future."

He also denied that the Tigers had attacked two fishing villages in the north of the island on Sunday, as claimed by the Government, although he did not rule out another guerrilla group being responsible.

He revealed that leaders of the six other guerrilla groups had held talks in Madras over the past month with Mr A. Amirthalingham, the Front's Secretary-General to try to persuade him to withdraw from the Colombo talks.

Mr Balasingham maintained that the Front had lost its mandate to speak for the minority Tamil population which makes up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million Sinhalese-dominated population.

The Tigers had also had talks with the other groups, he said, aimed at a united rebel mili-



Sindona trial adjourned as plea fails

By LESLIE CHILDE in Rome

THE Italian trial of Michele Sindona, the controversial financier, was opened and adjourned until Dec. 12 in Milan yesterday. He denies charges involving £130 million.

The judge ordered the postponement after the jury had heard four hours of evidence and objections raised by lawyers representing "God's Banker" as Sindona has been called because of his close associations with the Vatican. All the objections were rejected.

Earlier photographs, besieged the heavily-guarded court building in Milan, once the nerve centre of 64-year-old Sindona's empire.

The charges involve the cash and collapse of two banks he owned before fleeing the country a decade ago. In an unprecedented move the Sicilian has been "loaned out" to Italy by America where he is already serving a 25-year sentence.

Sindona had close links with the Mafia but even it could not save him when arrested in an unprecedented move the Sicilian has been "loaned out" to Italy by America where he is already serving a 25-year sentence.

Fears for his life

Now Sindona openly fears for his life. "I don't want to meet the same fate as Roberto Calvi," he told police. "So for the past two months he has been held in a women's prison in Vigliana, North Italy."

Calvi, also associated with the Vatican bank, was found hanging under Blackfriars Bridge in London in 1982. Two insurers failed to clear up the mystery of his death.

In the courtroom yesterday



God's Banker: Michele Sindona behind bars in jail in Milan where he went on trial yesterday.

a police official said: "Our men will be on full alert because we cannot rule out an attempt to kill Sindona. He has powerful enemies."

This is the second trial involving the Sindona empire. In July, 25 defendants accused of complicity were jailed for terms ranging from 12 to two years.

So far, 125 witnesses have been summoned to give evidence at the trial, which is expected to last several weeks.

But that total could well grow, a court official said.

Murder hearing

In January, when this trial should be ending, Sindona will have to face another hearing in Milan when he will be accused of complicity in the murder of a former aide who was shot dead while on his way

Hawke faces tough time after poor win at polls

By DENIS FARNER in Melbourne

THE Australian Labour party, stunned by its unexpectedly poor victory at the polls on Saturday, has not only lost face but is confronted by major internal problems that will not be easy to solve.

Now the long-simmering feud between Mr Hawke, the Prime Minister, and Mr Hayden, Foreign Minister, threatens to explode.

This follows Mr Hayden's admission that he had been spoken to by Mr Hawke for his comments about the conduct and result of the election campaign.

He refused to retract his criticism that the mark of the campaign had been similar to the sale of detergents. But he had agreed not to make any further comments.

However, he declined to accept that the Government had been returned with a very much reduced majority because of the new voting system.

Further counting yesterday caused little change in the known results. Four seats in the House of Representatives, two in Victoria and two in Queensland, remain in doubt.

Labour holds 50 seats and the Liberal-National party coalition 64. This compares with 73 for Labour and an 87 for the coalition in the previous and smaller Parliament.

The Daily Telegraph
Tuesday, Dec. 4, 1984

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As leader of the major centre-left faction he is believed to have the numbers if he runs in the present deputy, Mr Lionel Bowen, an ineffective Right-winger.

There are few members of the party whom Mr Hawke would be less happy to have as his deputy.

Problems loom for next week's caucus meeting over the size of the Cabinet and left-wing demands for greater representation.

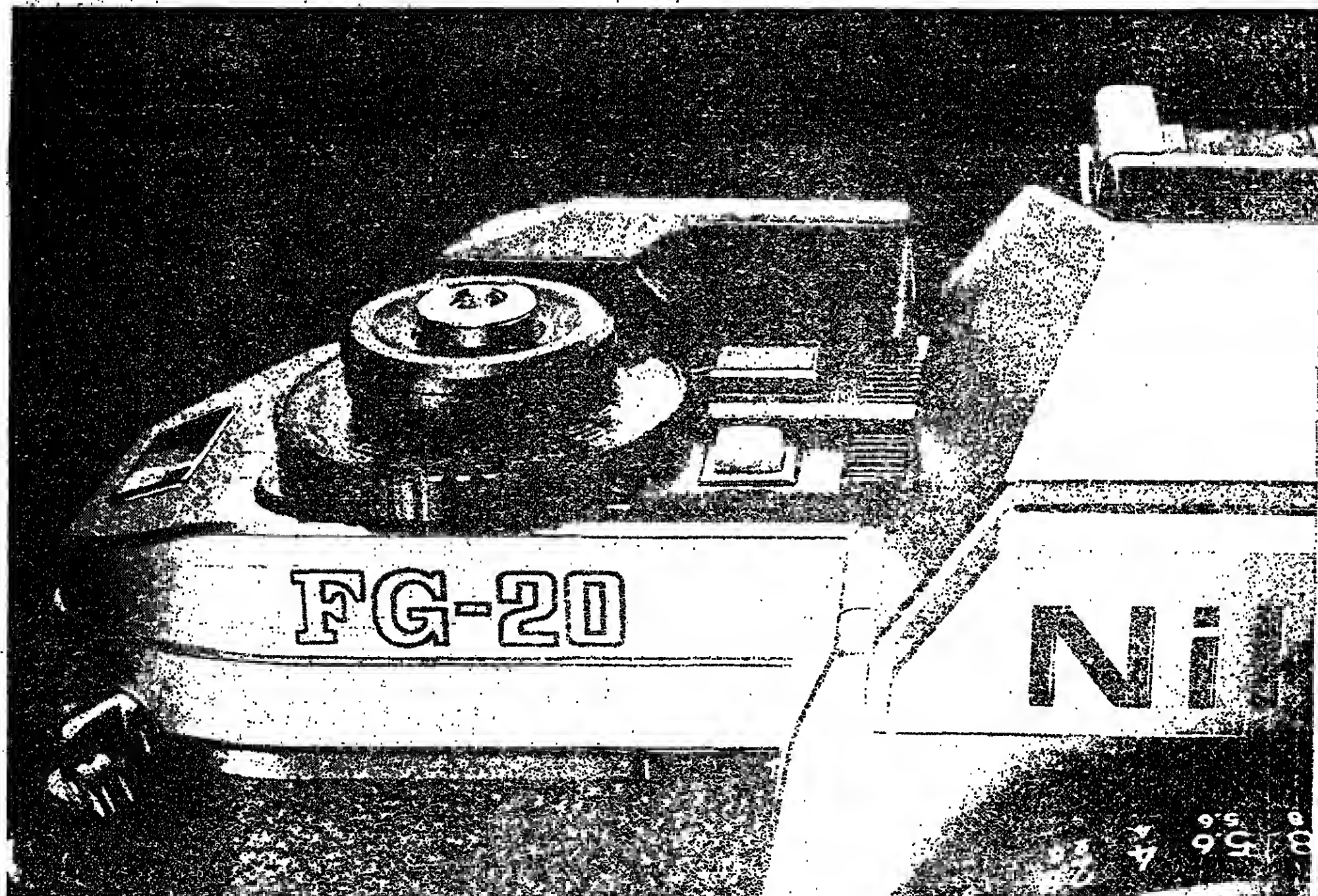
In expectation of a landslide victory Mr Hawke has proposed to enlarge the Cabinet. His announcement, without consultation with the party, that this plan has been abandoned will lead to sharp debate.

WARSHIPS BARRED

By Our Auckland Correspondent

New Zealand will reject any blanket request for United States warships to visit its ports as part of a ban on nuclear-armed or powered ships, the Prime Minister, Mr Lange, said yesterday.

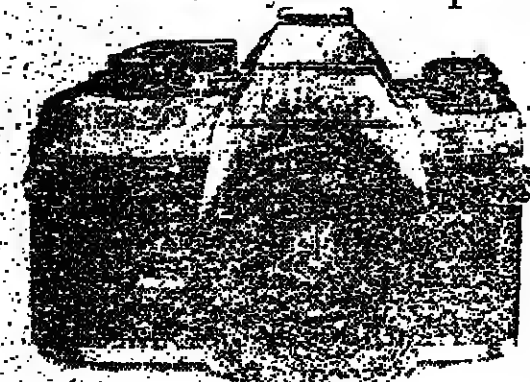
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Arafat underlines his moderate commitment

By JOHN BULLOCH Diplomatic Staff

FRESH from his triumph in securing a personal vote of confidence at the Palestine National Council meeting in Amman, Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, yesterday arrived in Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd.

SEA TREATY DECISION THIS WEEK

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

THE Government will decide within days on whether to sign the Law of the Sea treaty, an agreement covering international rights on the seabeds as well as the surface.

Drafting the treaty took 10 years and it remains highly contentious. The United States and West Germany have refused to sign.

The period allowed for signature expires on Sunday. Involved in this week's decision-making are the Prime Minister and the Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, Transport, Energy, and the Environment.

The signs point to Britain following West Germany: it will refuse to sign but not block signature by the European Community. With the exception of Italy the remaining EEC countries have either signed or are expected to do so.

By partnering Bonn, Whitehall would be in a strong position to press for further concessions on the treaty's terms from Third World countries.

Greatest prize

Ratification by the EEC will require the unanimous approval of the Council of Ministers. So Britain and the West Germans, either singly or together, could still block final approval.

The seabed's greatest prize, now within grasp for the hand of technological advancement, is its mineral reserves in the form of nodules containing manganese, nickel, copper and cobalt.

The treaty would vest control over deep sea mineral exploitation in an international authority which eventually would be able to change the law with a 75 per cent majority. A development which would put considerable power in the hands of the technological have-nots.

By choosing Riyadh as the first step of an intended lengthy Arab nation tour, Mr Arafat underlined his commitment to the moderate camp in any future Middle East peace negotiations.

He also acknowledged that Saudi Arabia is probably the most influential nation of the area. Mr Arafat has as a first priority reconciliation of the PLO with its arch enemy Syria and is looking to King Fahd to bring this about.

With King Hussein, who has suggested a joint approach to talks with Israel for his country and the Palestinians, concluding his State visit to Egypt, and Mr Arafat in Riyadh, the shape of the new Middle East lineup was being emphasised.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the moderate Palestinians loyal to Arafat showed they were forming an alliance in opposition to the "wild men" of the Arab world such as Col Gaddafi of Libya.

Backing of Iraq

And they can count on the backing of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, who has just resumed diplomatic relations with America.

The immediate aim of the moderates is to patch up the quarrel with President Hafiz Assad of Syria. Syria, Iran's main backer in the Arab world, controls five Palestinian groups hostile to Arafat and claims to speak for the majority of the PLO.

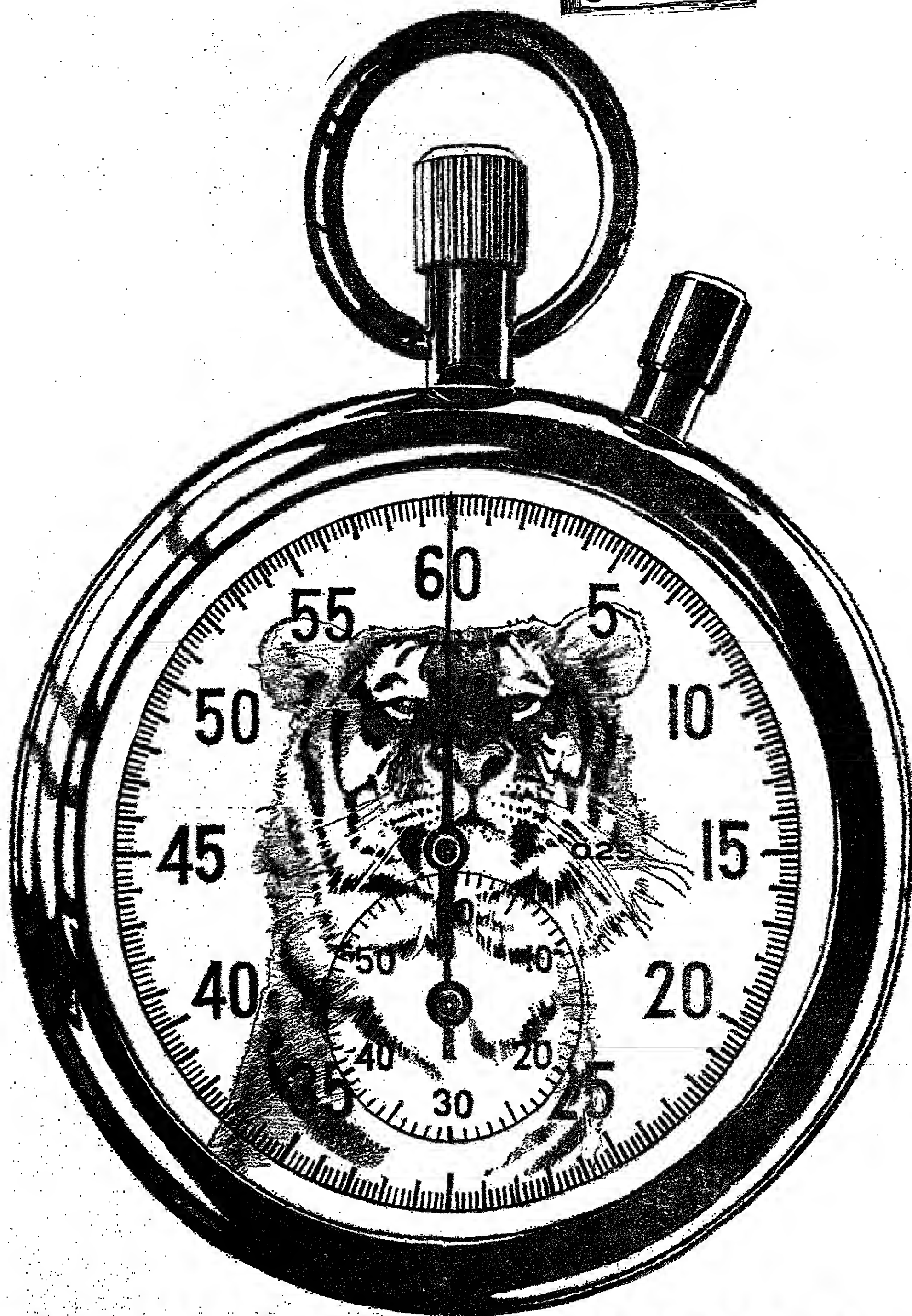
But messages and delegations from the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan, during the Palestine National Council showed that Arafat and his mainstream Fatah group still have the support of most Palestinians.

To underline that fact he plans to move the headquarters of the PLO from Tunis to Amman.

The move will have the practical effect of removing the PLO from the repercussions of the ill-health of the 82-year-old President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia.

It will also bolster King Hussein's inter-Arab standing and hearten Palestinians in the West Bank.

Editorial Comment-P14



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Yesterday in Parliament

'Bad for our capital and bad for England' says Tory ex-Minister

BACKBENCHERS ATTACK BILL TO END COUNCILS

By WILLIAM WEEKES Parliamentary Staff

GOVERNMENT plans to get rid of the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan county councils came under renewed criticism from Conservative backbenchers in the Commons last night.

Mr DAVID HOWELL, the former Conservative Transport Minister, criticised the Government for failing to replace the GLC with a small but London-wide elected authority.

"It will be bad for our capital and bad for England," he declared on second reading of the Bill giving effect to abolition.

Too many of the GLC's powers were going to central government, he said. Conservatives should be careful not to loosen the principles on which the party had been founded.

Mr Howell said Ministers must know that having no city-wide administration for London would not endure.

The legislation should not be proceeded with when it was known that it would bring forces into play from its incep-

tions were not based on fact. Before the two-day debate started, Dr Cunningham said the metropolitan counties had been advised by counsel that, prima facie, some parts of the Bill could be hybrid. If that was found to be the case, progress through Parliament could be delayed.

The SPEAKER, Mr Weatherill, said he had studied the measure for possible hybridity, but would listen carefully to what the Opposition had to say on the matter.

"Any action thereafter would be a matter for the House and not for me, and we must proceed with the Bill today."

'Minor partner'

Mr JENKIN, moving second reading of the Bill, said almost all the local government services affecting people's daily lives were already with the London boroughs rather than the GLC.

The GLC did not run London and never had. It had never been more than a minor partner in the provision of local government services in London.

"The major partners are, and since 1965 have been, the London boroughs."

The metropolitan counties had run some services well, but did not have enough major functions to justify their existence as a separate directly-elected tier of government.

Backbench criticism

Mr Jenkin got a foretaste of the criticism he can expect from some Conservative backbenchers as the Bill progresses through Parliament when he sought to counter arguments in favour of London having at least a slimmed-down upper-tier, or a strategic authority, once the GLC is abolished.

Mr JOHN WILKINSON (C, Ruislip-Northwood) asked why London should be different



Mr HOWELL: Too many of the GLC's powers going to central Government.



Mr JENKIN: Not the end of local democracy in the metropolitan areas.

from other capital cities in Western Europe, which had city-wide elected upper-tiers of local government.

Mr JENKIN said there was no parallel between what might happen in other cities with different traditions and what might happen in London, which had a strong tradition of borough government.

"Anyone who favours a slimmed-down upper tier for its own sake has to tell us what such weak authorities would actually do," he said.

"If they had substantive functions, how could they avoid the duplication, conflict and bureaucracy of which it is the intention of this Bill to rid us?"

"If they had no substantive functions, what sort of people would waste their time serving on them?"

Opposition cheers

Another Conservative, Mr PATRICK CORMACK (Staffordshire S) was cheered by Opposition when he suggested that Mr Jenkin was taking

with complaints and queries, and decisions will be taken locally by strong, elected local authorities.

Savings would stem from a system of local government which would be closer, and therefore more accountable, to the people.

There will also be savings because removing a whole layer of government will cut out duplication and unnecessary bureaucracy.

Mr Jenkin rejected Labour charges that getting rid of the GLC and the six metropolitan county councils was pure political spite. Abolition was a clear manifesto pledge and was supported by local authorities of all political persuasions.

'No basis in fact'

In his denunciation of the Bill, Dr CUNNINGHAM, the Shadow Environment Secretary, said Mr Jenkin was asking his Conservative colleagues in Parliament to live a lie.

"None of the claims made for the Bill has any basis in fact. Not one of the claims can withstand a cursory examination, let alone a searching analysis."

"The Government claims there will be major savings for ratepayers, a return of powers to districts and boroughs and greater accountability for electors. Not one of these claims is true."

These proposals need everything to political malice and vindictiveness and nothing to a coherent, principled and planned reform of local government under democratic control.

The most likely outcome would be greater costs for ratepayers, boroughs and districts would be denied the necessary expenditure to sustain services and would be forced either to make cuts or increase rates.

"This is an enabling Bill giving wide-ranging and essential important powers to Ministers."

It is a Bill for centralisation, with over 40 new powers for Ministers, many of them unprecedented and astonishing in their nature.

For three years the Environment Secretary would have control of joint boards and their finances. Ministers would be able without any inquiry to break up proposed police, fire or transport undertakings.

"The Tory party in Parliament is asked to give this Bill support."

These backing such proposals demonstrate all the symptoms of having been infected by the political equivalent of AIDS—Acquired Indifference to Democracy Syndrome.

The Bill was a disaster and a sham, with no intellectual, philosophical or economic merit.

'Miserable failure'

Mr JOHN CARTWRIGHT (Soc. Dem, Walsley) said although he disliked the present local government system, the Bill's reforms were a miserable failure in several respects.

First, councils were to be replaced by an intricate web of agencies, agencies and joint boards with directly appointed members.

The Bill is retaining a larger system of local government, but one in which the power tier is hidden, and not directly accountable.

The sweeping powers being given to Ministers in effect created a third tier, in Whitehall.

The aim should be to create one tier of local government for purely local services and another for wider issues in city regions.

BUS FARES PLEDGE BY RIDLEY

CLAIMS that Government plans for bus service privatisation would threaten concessionary fares to pensioners and the disabled were rejected by Mr RIDLEY, Transport Secretary, in the Commons yesterday.

He insisted, at Question Time, that the proposals would improve services, create more jobs and safeguard concessionary fare schemes.

Mr Ridley rejected claims by Mrs GWYNETH DUNWOODY, Labour Transport Spokesman, that existing jobs in the industry would be replaced with "part-time black economy jobs" in private services which would put passengers at risk.

'More employed'

Pointing to an experiment in bus service in Exeter, Mr RIDLEY replied: "By having higher frequency minibuses you can, in fact, have more people employed on a full-time basis."

His policy was designed to remove restrictions to more flexible and frequent bus services, he said.

Mr Ridley told Mr Gary Waller (C, Kitchener) that councils would still have the right to operate fare concessions in the elderly and the disabled. "I can give you that assurance with clarity."

Labour claim criminal incompetence over BT

By ANTHONY LOOCH

THE Government's public flotation of British Telecom shares was described as "criminal incompetence" and "the biggest give-away in British commercial history" in the Commons yesterday.

The attack came from Mr ALAN WILLIAMS (Lab., Swansea W), an Opposition Front Bench spokesman on trade and industry, after Mr Geoffrey Patten, Information Technology Minister, had made a statement about the flotation.

Mr PATTIE said the flotation had been concluded successfully. He welcomed the fact that about 194,000 out of an eligible total of 230,000 of British Telecom's employees had responded to the matching offer and put their own money into the company.

The general public made more than two million applications for the new shares, he said. The Government had decided to give priority to smaller applications, and all those for 200 and 400 shares were to be met in full.

Offers of BT shares in Canada, Japan and the United States were now taking place.

'Biggest give-away' Mr WILLIAMS said BT's shares were now trading at 95p which represented a 90 per cent premium on the 50p down-payment. On this basis, the Government was presiding over the biggest give-away in British commercial history.

Was Mr Patten aware of the report in that morning's Daily Telegraph that for every penny above 50p at which the shares were traded, the Government lost £30 million?

"Is the Minister really surprised that employees have accepted offers of free shares, and two free shares for every single share they purchased?"

"When claiming success, does he not realise you can sell almost anything at half price. But in this particular case it is taxpayers' assets that are being sold short?"

Mr WILLIAMS said the Government should have transferred to the United Kingdom market the 400 million BT shares which had been allocated to Japan, the United States and Canada.

"Why should foreigners get the double bonus of getting undervalued BT shares with under-valued pound notes?"

On the share price, he asked how the Government could have got it so wrong and accused them of "criminal incompetence."

Mr PATTIE rejected the

accusation that the flotation had been "some kind of failure," or that the Government should have allocated more shares to the domestic market.

Mr WILLIAM HAMILTON (Lab., Eile C) said: "About £100 million has gone to city institutions who engaged in this casino-like exercise. What advantage has there been to the consumer?"

Mr PATTIE replied that the advantage was already being felt in the improved performance of British Telecom.

Mr DALE CAMPBELL, SAVOIR (Lab., Workington) accused the Government of giving away "a national asset at half price."

Mr PATTIE said the real advantage to the nation was the extension of the possibility of over one million people being able to own shares in a great international public corporation.

Shares 'underpriced' In the Lords British Telecom privatisation was termed "one of the biggest public scandals this century" by Lord BRUCE of DONINGTON (Lab.).

Shares were being traded at that moment for 45p premium which showed the offer was "grossly under-priced" and 35 per cent undervalued.

Lord LUCAS of CHILWORTH, Trade Under-Secretary, said it was much too early to be judging the price to which shares would settle.

MASONRY CURB ON JUDGES REJECTED

Labour demands to curb membership of Freemasonry among judges were rejected by Mr PATRICK MAYHEW, Solicitor General, in the Commons yesterday.

"It is very important that judges should be representative of the community, as indeed they are," he said at Question Time. "The important thing is that judges should be loyal to their judicial oath—which is to do justice without fear or favour, affection or ill will."

"A judge can of course discharge that important responsibility being a Freemason, which is perfectly lawful thing to be, just as he could being a Buffalo, a Forester or an Odd-fellow."

Bankruptcy fears for some Gibraltar hotels

By WALTER ABURN Parliamentary Staff

SOME hotels in Gibraltar were on the verge of bankruptcy, Lord WALLACE of COSLANY (Lab) said in the Lords yesterday.

Yet, he added, there had been no real response to representations made to Spain about air communications on "The Rock."

Facilities for tourism were a matter of extreme urgency. Tourist residential development schemes needed urgent assistance, including grant aid to enhance Gibraltar's tourist potential.

'First priority' Lord MERRIVALE (C) pressed for more British aid for Gibraltar tourist projects to exploit the potential of Gibraltar's historic and unique attractions.

Baroness YOUNG, Foreign Office Minister, said a current £50 million aid programme included projects which would

enhance the tourist potential. The government of Gibraltar was giving first priority to improving the environmental structure.

Another £25 million was going in capital aid to convert the naval dockyard plus £14 million in contracts to refit naval auxiliary vessels in the next three years.

The aid programme which ran until 1986 would not be affected by the reopening of the frontier with Spain.

She assured Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) that the Spanish government had undertaken "effective action" to allow more flights over its airspace.

Today in Parliament HOUSE OF LORDS 2.30: Reserve Forces (Safeguarding of Employment) Bill, 2nd reading; Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bill, 1st reading; Family Law (Scotland) Bill, 1st reading; and St Helena, 1st reading.

HOUSE OF COMMONS 2.30: Local Government Bill, 1st reading; debate on EEC documents on the lead content of petrol and motor vehicle emissions.

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DEFYING THE LAW

THE STATEMENT ISSUED yesterday by the National Union of Mineworkers' delegate conference described the legal fines, contempt orders and sequestration orders, which the conference had earlier decided to defy, as "this most vicious threat in our history to the freedom and independence of British trade unionism." Such language seems to suggest that the union is the victim of a deliberate attack by the Government or by "Tory judges" under the industrial legislation passed by the last Parliament. But the truth is that the two legal disputes, which have resulted in the appointment of sequestrators and a receiver, have taken place under the traditional common law. The cases which originally sparked them off were brought by working miners anxious to protect the finances, interests and rule book of the NUM against Mr SCARGILL and his clique. And British trade unions, like British companies or British political parties, are not independent of the law of the land. They must conduct their affairs in accordance with laws which, among other benefits, prevent trustees and officials misusing their position and union funds to achieve private objectives not sanctioned by the rule book.

By resisting the intervention of the courts at every stage, the union's leadership is now on the verge of losing control of its finance and organisation completely. It may succeed in shuffling the funds through a succession of little-known overseas banks for a time. But since this is in defiance of court orders (and since an application from 16 working miners to make the NUM Executive personally liable for the £200,000 contempt fine will be probably heard within the next fortnight), the time is approaching when Mr SCARGILL and others may face personal financial ruin and even prison.

It will be said that Mr SCARGILL has sought such martyrdom all along and that, should his prayer be finally granted, it will arouse other unions and bring about the mobilisation of industrial action by the TUC for which yesterday's NUM statement appealed. Perhaps this might have been the case even a month ago. But no sane person—not even most mad ones—could regard Mr SCARGILL as a victim today. He has wriggled assiduously to attract the court's condemnation. He has defied laws which not even an anarchist could denounce as "political" or "class" legislation. He has pointedly refused to condemn picket violence. There are victims in this strike. But Mr SCARGILL is not one of them. It is he who is the threat to British trade unionism and to the NUM.

A NATION OF SHARE OWNERS

THE SALE OF PUBLIC ASSETS is intended to perform a variety of purposes. It "fortifies the revenue" (albeit only to the extent that purchasers are not using funds that would otherwise have found a home in gifts). It releases management from the dead hand of Whitehall interference, and (again only to the extent that monopoly privilege is dismantled) subjects it to market judgment of performance. And it enables employees and private citizens to take a stake of their own in major corporations. So far none of the businesses this Government has denationalised have performed in each respect; and until yesterday none had made much of a lasting contribution to the spread of ownership. The sale of British Telecom, however, has contrived to satisfy this last objective beyond the wildest dreams of its promoters.

Ninety-five per cent of those who work for British Telecom have defied the orders of their shop stewards and acquired a holding, as have millions of their customers; and since two-thirds of them have opted for the right to bonus shares by staying with the company, it must be probable that most will hang on to them. Hence it looks as though the number of individuals directly owning shares will have doubled overnight. Labour spokesmen predictably complain that this constitutes a rip-off of the taxpayers. The Government is entitled to reply that it has tapped the savings of the nation, and endowed the citizens with an interest in the success of a huge utility which they will value.

The exercise of privatising BT has not been flawless. Its dominant monopoly position remains entrenched, and the new regulatory quango, OfTel, will have its work cut out to ensure that that position is not abused in hamstringing suppliers and competitors. A huge share register is no guarantor of management performance—indeed the City institutions might have proved more stringent monitors. But if a mass of individual share-owners is an ingredient of the "enterprise culture"—and American experience suggests it may be—then the sale of British Telecom will have amply justified the millions spent on launching it. One share does not constitute a portfolio. But it could re-launch a very healthy habit which we in Britain have come close to losing.

SRI LANKA'S TROUBLES

ONCE AGAIN SRI LANKA is in the grip of a desperate ethnic crisis and once again fears arise of a slide into more all-out communal violence. The current offensive by Tamil separatist guerrillas has been building up for more than a fortnight and the Government must have been badly jolted by the attack on an army camp following operations against civilian settlements. The rising death toll reflects the bitterness on both sides.

Faced with the sort of strife which has afflicted Northern Ireland, President JUNIUS JAYAWARNE has introduced a series of wide-ranging emergency regulations, including the establishment of a security zone covering the entire northern end of the country and a no-man's-land along the coast. He has also appealed to India to shut the Tamil guerrilla training camps in Indian territory, only a short boat journey away. Predictably the appeal has been rejected—Mr RAJIV GANDHI apparently feels he needs the support of the State of Tamil Nadu in the elections later this month.

There is no reason to doubt the Sri Lanka Government's claim that the so-called Tamil Tigers were planning to declare the State of Tamil Eelam in the north to mark next month's harvest festival. Whether a force of some 4,000 was being prepared for an invasion is something else. But certainly Mr JAYAWARNE is facing the most serious security threat since he came to power. Once again it could be a case of too little too late, and the occasional brutality by the security forces has not helped. The Government has put forward proposals for reform, including strengthening the local government system, but nothing is now going to satisfy the men of violence. Mr JAYAWARNE must somehow manage to suppress Tamil terrorism at its source. And there must be no recurrence of the appalling bloodletting of the summer of 1983.

Another old port down the drain

YET another Great British Industrial Suicide spectacular seems to be in the making, this time set in our Queen of ports, Southampton. Unless the present crisis is resolved, claims its beleaguered director, Dennis Noddings, Southampton's container traffic, which accounts for three-quarters of the port's business, could totally disappear. "Death", declares Mr Noddings starkly, "is staring us in the face."

If that seems hardly possible, one of Southampton's two container terminals has already closed—all its customers having departed in one four-week period, taking a quarter of the port's business with them—and with no prospect of reopening in the immediate future.

THE other has been shut for more than a month now by a manning dispute. Its customers have (temporarily or permanently) taken their custom elsewhere and the situation appears to be getting worse rather than better. "Insignificance," says Mr Noddings, with not a container in sight, "is the order of the day."

How has all this come to pass? Unhappily, I am unable to bring you the trade union point of view. The shop steward to whom I spoke on the telephone confessed that he would like to know what it was himself, but added that his leader, a Mr Pearce, had declared, somewhat forcefully, that he was not speaking to the newspapers. What follows, therefore, is the management view of impending disaster.

In the 1970s, the sun shone on the Solent. Southampton happily pinched business from Liverpool and became Britain's biggest container port. Its natural advantages, bequeathed by geography, were—and are—second to none. Yet, somehow, the humble and despised Felixstowe has managed to topple it from its throne, and now reigns supreme.

One reason is that Southampton has allowed itself to become one of Europe's most expensive ports. Its customers have to pay £15 more than Felixstowe for one of their containers handled in the Solent; a considerable premium for shipping lines which bring in tens of thousands a year. Given that labour costs amount to 80 per cent of its expenses, the management has no doubt that overmanning lies at the root of its inflated prices.

Whether that overmanning developed because of stroog unions or weak management ("we may have allowed things to slip a little," admits Mr Noddings) is now irrelevant. In any event it has now, he says, reached a level where, on any given day, about 40 per cent of those paid to be at work are, in fact, either at home or pursuing other gainful employment.

ment in the manner of the enterprising BL workers of the 1970s.

The details of what goes on certainly put one in mind of Cowley before the Edwardes axe. Again according to Mr Noddings, the container port is manned as if its machinery were working flat out all the time. Since this happy state of affairs only obtains for 20 per cent of the time, there are often a good many dockers surplus to requirements.

Some are therefore sent home, with official blessing, each day. There are also, however, a number of unscheduled departures. In those cases, not infrequently, where there are two workers for each job, the men make their own, unofficial dispositions and, in due course, one of the pair will slip gracefully away.

According to the management, most of the dockers do not work for more than half the week, though they do have to suffer unsocial night shifts. For this, they receive an average annual income of about £11,500.

GRAHAM TURNER

on Southampton's disappearing container traffic

But high labour costs are not Southampton's only disadvantage. Another is that, sadly, it has now earned for itself a reputation for unreliability which is second to none.

In 1981-2, the container terminal was shut for almost a year. Then came a lull, during which the management tried (and failed) to reach a port agreement (like Felixstowe's) which would allow them to negotiate with all their workers in one fell swoop instead of conducting four or five separate negotiations.

This effort involved a marathon of meetings but, by the end of 1983, Mr Noddings and his men felt confident enough to launch a fleet of brochures and articles which proclaimed that Southampton had experienced a recovery of Lazarus-like proportions, and that 1984 promised to be a bumper year. Bumpy would have been a better word.

In June, there was a strike of dock foremen; in July and August, the labour force enthusiastically hacked the two national dock strikes, while their downier Felixstowe brethren were blowing the miners a barely-muffled raspberry.

As a result, the United States Lines, won from Felixstowe only the previous year but which has been complaining of poor service almost from the outset, finally called it a day and scuttled back to Felixstowe. Three other lines

followed suit, taking 80,000 containers a year with them. Which, of course, brought even more over-manning.

Wisely or unwisely, Mr Noddings also called it a day and decreed that new manning levels—involving the departure of 180 registered dockers (with severance payments of up to £25,000)—would operate as from Oct. 19. There was, he argued, no other way to match Felixstowe. The unions, however, demurred and Southampton's other terminal has been closed ever since.

Despite clear signs that the management is willing to give at least some ground—it claims it will be asking the remaining men to work only 3½ days out of a 5-day week—Noddings has encountered a Scargill-like brick wall. He is baffled by this. The stewards, he says, are not particularly militant.

All he can imagine is that they have somehow convinced themselves that he and the port's customers are playing a subtle confidence trick on them, whereby the shipping lines will return to Southampton as soon as the 180 dockers have departed. This he vehemently denies.

He will not say what chance he thinks the port has of winning back its two biggest customers, but some of his managers reckon it is now less than even. They note that one has already invited other British ports to quote for its 1985 business. Noddings himself knows only too well that both are fed up with what he himself admits is Southampton's "terribly unreliable" service.

THE other contributory factor to the dockers' complacent attitude, he believes, is that Southampton, unlike Felixstowe, belongs to the national docks labour scheme, which effectively guarantees its registered dockers jobs for life; and, incidentally, requires the management to pay a 15 per cent surcharge on its labour bill (about £1.3 million) to help foot the bill for the National Dock Labour Board.

Because of that guarantee, claims Noddings, "the chaps think they can do almost anything and get away with it. At the end of the day, they believe there will still be jobs for them, whatever happens."

Thus are industrial suicide spectaculars born. It is all so tragic, says Noddings. If Southampton had proper manning levels and gave a first-class service, there was a reason why they shouldn't double their container business and the number of jobs it provided. As it was, he declared, many hundreds of jobs were at risk. On the face of it, feather-bedding designed to atone for the sins of past employers has produced a jerming-like complacency, the result of which is more likely to be job-destruction than job-creation. Over to you, Mr Pearce.

The last post for the Vice-Chiefs

A WAKE is being held at the Admiralty today to mark the death of the post of Vice-Chief of the Service Staff, killed off by Michael Heseltine in his reorganisation of the Ministry of Defence.

Nearly 30 former Vice-Chiefs, with more than 1,100 years of service in all three branches of the forces between them, have promised to attend the launching ceremony. Heseltine himself will not be there.

Serious among those travelling to London for the luncheon is Marshal of the RAF Sir William Dickson, now aged 86, who was Vice-Chief of the air staff between 1946 and 1948. Others attending include Lord Lewin and Lord Hill-Norton.

Almost to a man, the former Vice-Chiefs are united in their criticism of the decision to scrap their old job, whose holders have traditionally been responsible for day-to-day contingency planning within the services. Some of the retired members of the group have privately accused the Defence Secretary of "mental aberration."

The relics are still lying at Peterhead, despite a request from the MoD that they should be "reverently" returned to the wreck. The remains of 800 men, including Kitchener, were drowned when the ship hit a mine shortly after leaving Scapa Flow on a secret mission to Russia, still lie in the Hampshire.

MoD officials are now attempting to draw up legislation which would give the term "war grave" a legal significance and prevent a recurrence of the problem. A move which will be welcomed by all who lost relatives at sea.

Family affair

COMPETITION among the nine British contestants in the final of next April's Yehudi Menuhin Violin International will have the added spice of sibling rivalry as three of them are from the same family.

While brothers Simon and David Smith compete for the £3,500 first prize in the senior section, their younger sister Amanda is in the junior group, which has a prize of £2,500.

The Smiths come from a remarkable family living in Thetford. Their father, Paul, has just become "Superperson of the Year" in a television competition and another brother is a mathematics lecturer.

LONDON DAY BY DAY

The young violinists do not appear to have inherited their musical skills however—neither of their parents can play a note.

Penguin pursuit

ORGANISERS of next year's exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Penguin Books are scouring the country for one of the founder Sir Walter Lane's other bright ideas—a slot machine for selling the early paperbacks.

The machines were called "Penguinulators" and dispensed the early volumes in the series for sixpence. They were introduced in 1937 and were still about on railway stations and at airports into the 1950s.

So far, however, the Penguin people have not been able to track down a surviving model. If they find one, it will take its place at the exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall next July.

Gatepost guns

LIEUTENANT Sir Stuart Pringle, the former Commandant of the Royal Marines who lost a foot when the IRA planted a bomb in his car, has made a remarkable discovery in his new job as chairman of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, which is charged with preserving the naval yard and making it a living museum.

Pringle noticed that throughout the yard cannon removed from ships of the line had been put to practical use. "We've got what is probably the world's finest collection of naval ordnance being used as bollards and gateposts," he said.

He has made it a top priority to remove and restore these historic weapons which have, until now, gone unnoticed through familiarity.

Schedule 1, paragraph 12 (3) of the Local Government Bill reads:

"Sub-paragraph (1) of Paragraph 3 above shall not apply in relation to a joint water development plan and references in sub-paragraphs (3) and (4) of that paragraph and in paragraph 4 (3) above to paragraph 11) of paragraph 3 and the purposes of paragraph (a) to (c) of that sub-paragraph shall include references to sub-paragraph (2) above and the purposes of paragraph (a) to (c) of that sub-paragraph." Streamlining the cities?

Anyone know Whiskey?

I HAVE RECEIVED a call for help from Major Howard Gater-Smith of the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop, where a brass plaque in memory of a dog called "Whiskey" has just been uncovered on the west wing of the officers' mess.

The inscription on the plaque, erected when Major Gater-Smith was a Royal Naval cadet, reads: "Here lies Whiskey, an independent little Scottie who died on his way home on Novem-

LONDON DAY BY DAY



ber 1st 1945. From his friends H.C.G. G.C., C.C.W., M.B.

Gater-Smith tells me that the Air Corps intends to place the plaque in the Museum of Army Flying, but first he needs details of Whiskey and his friends are needed. If anyone can help, please let me know.

Fatal repast

THE CASE of cannibalism and the yacht Mignonne, 100 years ago, reminds a reader that Edgar Allan Poe wrote a startling case of fiction predating fact—wrote about a cabin boy called Richard Parker who shared the same fate as the real Richard Parker 50 years later.

Poe's account of the last voyage of the Grampus, in which the cabin boy was the principal guest at the feast, was being read on the Mignonne's voyage by the captain, Thomas Dudley—who was later tried for murder at Exeter assizes.

Collected works

ANOTHER FACET of the talent of Tilly Losch, the exotic dancer of the 1920s and '30s who left the contents of her London flat to her friend, Billy Hamilton, will be exhibited tomorrow when 100 of her drawings and paintings go on show at Gallery 10, in Grosvenor Street.

Hamilton tells me that when he once asked the art connoisseur Anton Salern, what he thought of Tilly Losch's paintings, he advised Hamilton "never to throw any of her scribbles away."

Happily that advice was heeded and Losch's facility was such that when she made a rapid sketch of Bertrand Russell while watching him on television, Salern was astonished by its accuracy. A rare compliment from a man whose own collection included Rubens and Tiepolo.

Here today...

FROM a Taunton church magazine: "The Absent Healing Group meets every Tuesday morning, ten sharp."

PETERBOROUGH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR GRANT CUTS—THE HUMAN COST

SIR—I feel bound to point out some of the likely consequences of Sir Keith Joseph's recent proposals to abolish the minimum grant award for students following degree level courses and, furthermore, to operate a "means test" to force some parents to contribute up to £574 towards tuition fees.

Last year, the mandatory minimum grant was reduced by 50 per cent, from approximately £400 to approximately £200. If one takes inflation into account, the reduction in real terms was nearer 55 per cent. If the new proposals take effect, in October, 1985, the parental contributions for those not qualifying for the award, would have been increased by £1,000 a year in a period of two years. What are the effects likely to be?

1. Some sixth formers will be denied the opportunity to continue their full-time education at university or college due to the simple fact that their parents will be unable to finance it. It costs at least £2,000 a year to maintain a student, accounting for vacation costs. Not all students can find holiday work. If one adds £574 to this bill, it is easy to foresee the above. It is not reasonable to expect parents to sell their home, take out loans and disrupt the family in order to meet these costs.

Many already have loans to repay. Those who have children at university or college at the moment will know of the hardship endured by some parents, whose parents are unable or unwilling, to meet their contribution in full. Whatever the "scales of contribution" show, many parents are in difficulties at the moment.

2. Sixth formers may be forced to seek "sponsorship" in order to fulfil their ambition to proceed to higher education. Unless they are committed to this career or profession in question, this inhibits the "free choice" to which they are entitled. Furthermore, sponsorship is not easy to obtain in the present economic climate.

3. Schools may become reluctant to encourage able students to apply for places, knowing the possible pitfalls and hardship which could turn student life into a mere "existence," rather than the stimulating, rewarding and exciting experience, which it should be.

We should remember that it is not only parents in the "six-figure" income bracket whom we are discussing, but most pertinently, those on "medium" salaries, as both husbands and wives' salaries are cut, after allowances, for assessment purposes.

The idea of saving £39 million may

seem attractive, but what of the cost in human terms? These proposals threaten the basic right of all young people to continue their full-time education on appropriate courses beyond the age of 18.

The principle of equal opportunities for all is enshrined in the concept of the Welfare State. There is little point in arguing that it would be depriving youngsters of the opportunity as this would ignore the circumstances which had provoked the decision.

Are we not told that our economy needs injections of well-qualified, intelligent young men and women to make it more efficient and competitive? At the very least "free" education has always been an investment. It is accepted that more resources are needed for "Science" and, as important, "High Tech," but we also need a steady flow of graduates to continue development in these areas.

I urge all parents with bright 12-year-olds to take out some form of endowment policy, maturing at 18, so that their child will be guaranteed a free and open choice, come what may!

J. NORWOOD
Headmaster, Caldicot Comprehensive School,
Caldicot, Gwent.

Benefits at home

SIR—If the Government proposals for increasing the parental contributions for students come into effect and we find that we are paying the full amount, will that we can get our daughter eligible for supplementary benefits?

These would be hers for the asking if she decided to stay at home and not further her education.

S. E. GASCOYNE
Harbury, Warwick.

Tax position

SIR—Mr George Gardiner, M.P. (Nov. 22) does not help his case by using incorrect figures. A family with a gross income of £20,000 and two dependent children, does not pay tax at 30 per cent of that gross income as he maintains.

Before tax becomes liable there is deducted a tax-free man's allowance plus an additional personal allowance for each dependent child. The resultant taxable income, assuming the family cannot claim any further allowance, is then charged at 30 per cent.

The resultant tax liability on the example quoted is something under 22 per cent of the gross income. High, but not as bad as made out by Mr Gardiner.

T. H. GREEN
Truro, Cornwall.

Meter misconception

SIR—Mr M. J. Snow (Nov. 27) has misunderstood the position about water metering. It is by no means the case that "only those who use a large amount of water would gain from the installation of a water meter and single people who did so would be faced with even higher charges."

On the contrary, any shift from charging for water supply on the basis of rateable value to charging by consumption obviously tends, in principle, to benefit those who use less water. In particular, the people likely to gain are those who live on their own.

There is a judgment to be made by any individual thinking of having a meter installed about where the balance of advantage lies; one of the factors he will have to take into account is the initial cost of the installation against the annual savings which may result. There is, however, no simple rule of thumb of the kind Mr Snow suggests.

ANDREW SEMPLE
Sec. Water Authorities Assn.,
London, S.W.1.

The peace of Sunday

SIR—You take the view in a recent leader that because the law on Sunday closing is not enforced it is a bad law. The law on theft is also very badly enforced but I do hope you will not put that forward as a charter for thieves.

The calm of Sunday is a priceless asset. It is marvellous to go walking early on Sunday morning when the roads are relatively free of traffic, when one can hear one's own footsteps and commune with oneself as well as nature. If commercial greed, and that is what it is, has its way the British Sunday, a day for contemplation and rest, will be filled with the pandemonium which we have to endure for the other six days of the week.

Silence is a wonderful asset. Surely we are not all so frantically busy from Monday to Saturday that we have to do the shopping on Sunday.

(Dr.) D. L. ARMSTRONG
Cobham, Surrey.

Christmas on the dole

SIR—Can it be explained why miners' children seem to be more important than the children of the unemployed?

One hears continually of money-raising events to provide toys and so on for miners' children at Christmas and nothing about the children of the unemployed.

If the miners want a good Christmas for their families they have only to go back to the jobs awaiting them. The unemployed, so many of whom would dearly love a job, and to provide for their families for the rest of their lives have no hope.

(Mrs) JEANNE SUTCLIFFE
Mickley, Yorks.

Special part in the quiet of war

SIR—May I reply to the recent points made by Mr John Terraine?

It was not the purpose of my own letter to enter into learned discussion about the origins and conduct of the First World War. This period of history has been much researched.

Concerning the position of the Kaiser; here I feel Mr Terraine is being pedantic, for while there seems to be little doubt that, in his position of "Supreme War Lord," Wilhelm II had his own special part in the guilt for starting the war, in my letter I was using his title in the sense in which it is quite often used, that of the "Imperial Power."

It is much the same as the way in which we will often say "President Reagan's policy" or even merely "the President," meaning not just the man himself, but the power of his office. Why is it such a "hoary assertion" to say that our soldiers were "led to slaughter"? Perhaps "driven" would be a better word. The classic scene of the battles of the First World War was of soldiers, not only our own, agreeing, being sent unprotected across bare ground covered with uncut barbed wire and taking prepared machine-guns to try and take prepared fortifications; this is borne out by personal anecdotes recorded in many books such as the recent ones by Lyn Macdonald.

I have heard, myself, similar ones told to me by my late father and many "old soldiers" who became my patients. I was, after all, a German General who called the British leaders "donkeys."

I have to agree with the remarks made by Mr Terraine about the Russian good to see that someone appreciates their size; many seem to conveniently forget them.

As for the Austro-Hungarian Empire; surely, after the enactment of the Dual Union had trouble enough, merely keeping together; I often wonder how it managed to last as long as 1918!

Concerning my slip about "crosses which mark the graves of my father's stones." I should have said "headstones."

But this does not detract from the theme of my earlier letter. It was always better to jaw, jaw, jaw, than to war, war, war.

Surely the lesson we have to draw from the "Kaiser's War" (sic) is that an arms race is that if you have purpose—to use them.

(Dr.) R. E. DAWSON
Southport, Merseyside.

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.





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TOSHIBA

Novo not for the nervous

BRITISH children suffering from diabetes can now take part in an award scheme, under which they earn bronze, silver or gold awards for the diligence with which they cope with monitoring and regulating the disorder.

The scheme is promoted by Novo Industri, the Danish biotechnology group which has built its fortunes on the supply of insulin. This year, investors in Novo have been asking if they, too, are entitled to an award for sticking with the shares.

Novo has had a series of stock market upsets beginning with Wall Street turning against high growth "bio-tech" stocks last winter. But what looked a matter of fashion became a matter of fact when Novo reported a flat first-half profit, knocking the London price from £28 to £20 in one shot.

Novo was, however, still looking for an annual rate of growth of 20 p.c. But less than two months after forecasting 20 p.c., Novo cut its estimate to 10 p.c., which is not enough to generate any profits growth this year.

To discover what has gone wrong with this hitherto "glamour stock," Questor visited Novo in Copenhagen last week and came away with the following facts.

1—The insulin business is being hit by severe competition in a number of markets, not least from Eli Lilly which is attacking in both the United States and Germany. Novo's

problems were intensified by a delay in United States approval for a major new development of the drug.

2—The enzymes business has been denied by the move by one major American customer to start making its own enzymes. Novo knew the blow was coming, but the customer was not expected to get into production until next year.

3—Neither of the two factors will be reversed this year. Growth in the overall market for insulin has slowed, but on the enzymes side there is still enormous scope for new applications for the technology. Production of pharmaceuticals by biotechnological means and converting low grade fats into higher quality products are two major areas being explored. But they will take time to come to fruition.

4—Novo's management team has been strengthened with the appointment of a chief operating officer for the first time.

All this suggests that profits will be little changed this year or next, although Novo itself is separately avoiding saying anything that could remotely resemble a forecast.

Investors' nerves are likely to be severely strained next year, however, when American listing rules demand that Novo moves to quarterly reporting. Novo's business is lumpy, and subject to monthly variations of anything up to 30 p.c. in the sales pattern.

A couple of quarters of

"poor" results could easily undermine the price still further, but with the prospective price-earnings ratio now below 10 times at £20-30, long-term investors will sit it out.

Vinten strictly long-term view

VINTEN Group's interim profits collapse from £1.8 million to £939,000 for the six months to Sept. 30 has sown the seeds of doubt in the minds of even its most ardent followers.

The shares which hit a peak of 325p in May and then plummeted to 217p in October, struck a new low for the year yesterday when they dropped 30p to 182p.

The company had already warned that its traditional interests, military and broadcasting equipment, were scheduled for a hiatus in orders, particularly from the Middle East.

But the shortfall has coincided with worse than expected performance from the new ventures, scientific instruments and computing systems.

These two areas are still developing but losses are being sustained in key markets. Even though the fast expanding electro-optics side is continuing to push ahead, overall group profits look set for an uninspiring period.

Current year hopes are now down to £4 million (against £4.15 million) for a prospective multiple of 15-4.

The growth potential now looks decidedly long term.

Matthew Brown in cheery mood

REGIONAL brewers are fighting against a deteriorating stock market image so the

better-than-expected full-year profits from Matthew Brown to September 23 provide a much-needed boost.

Profits are only 9.5 p.c. higher before tax at £7.04 million, which compares with City expectations of £6.8 million. Property profits at £188,000 (against £378,000) are around £100,000 more than anticipated but the figures still reveal a better underlying growth trend than had been hoped for.

Regional brewers have been at the sharp end of the recent change in brewing fortunes which has seen the majors either hold or expand their shares of a declining beer market.

But Brown has not sat back and accepted this. It has, over the last two years, been investing significantly in expansion and refurbishment. This year has acquired Theakstones the Yorkshire brewer and 25 Courage public houses. At the same time it has expanded its catering interests, upgraded its hotels and increased its take-home business.

The increase in 1983-84 profits will inspire an upgrading of current year profit estimates and the 1984-85 target must now be set at around £8 million before tax.

The historic price earnings multiple is 10.5 times, at 224p, backed by a 5.2 p.c. yield, but prospectively the price drops to 9.7 times earnings.

Although brewery shares have been dull performers over the last year that is not a cheap rating relative to the sector as Brown's star potential was spotted some time ago.

But at least the shares from now on should be able to move in line with the rest of the market, perhaps outperforming it on occasions.

That is more than can be said for most of the regional brewers.

CHARTERHALL

Year of Record Profits

Mr Derek G Williams, Chairman and Chief Executive of Charterhall PLC, the UK based independent oil group, made the following principal points to shareholders at the Annual General Meeting held in London on 30th November, 1984.

- Substantial increase in Profits—Dividend doubled.
- Participation in Ninth Round of U.K. Offshore Licensing.
- Active U.K. Offshore exploration programme over next 12 months.
- Formation of Bidding Group in preparation for First Round of U.K. Onshore Licensing.
- 38 new producing oil wells in North America this year.
- 3 well exploration programme planned for listed Australian subsidiary over next six months.
- Exploration and production assets up by 80 per cent at £27 million.

Copies of the 1984 Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, Charterhall PLC, Sutherland House, Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5RA.

BIDS AND DEALS

Smidth-Nordic

DANISH engineer and building industry equipment maker P. L. Smidth and Company has taken a direct interest in Anglo Nordic Holdings, the engineering to property group headed by Brian Wolfson, by buying a 46.4 p.c. stake for 25p a share.

Purely to comply with the City Code on takeovers and mergers, it is offering the same for the remaining shares valuing Anglo,

whose shares were unchanged at 38p, at around £4.39 million.

Smidth does not intend to change Anglo's dividend policy, including the forecast 1p final, or change its existing director or policies.

The board of Anglo advise shareholders to "take no action" at present and will be writing to them shortly.

Suter

AIR conditioning and hairdressing equipment group Suter's scaled-down £15.5m recommended offer for Francis Industries has been accepted by holders of 32.6 p.c. of the equity, giving Suter 53.3 p.c. of the shares.

The offer—a previously recommended bid worth £18 million, was reduced after Francis warned it would not meet a £3.33 million profits forecast issued in defence of an earlier bid—is now unconditional.

The share offer will remain open for acceptances



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CLARKE—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Clarke, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

COOPER—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Cooper, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

DAVIES—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Davies, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

FERGUSON—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Ferguson, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

GILBERT—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Gilbert, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

HARRIS—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Harris, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

HUGHES—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Hughes, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

JONES—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Jones, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

KELLY—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Kelly, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

LEWIS—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Lewis, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

MARTIN—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Martin, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

NEAL—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Neal, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

OLIVER—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Oliver, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

PETERSON—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Peterson, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

ROBERTS—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Roberts, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

SMITH—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Smith, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

THOMAS—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Thomas, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

WATSON—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Watson, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

WILLIAMS—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Williams, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

WILSON—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Wilson, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

YOUNG—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Young, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

MARRIAGES

WATSON—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Watson, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

WILLIAMS—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Williams, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

WILSON—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Wilson, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

YOUNG—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Young, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

DEATHS

ALFRED—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Alfred, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

BENJAMIN—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Benjamin, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

CHARLES—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Charles, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

EDWARD—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Edward, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

FRANK—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Frank, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

GEORGE—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. George, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

HENRY—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Henry, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

JAMES—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. James, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

JOHN—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. John, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

LUCAS—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Lucas, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

MICHAEL—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Michael, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

NATHAN—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Nathan, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

OSCAR—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Oscar, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

PETER—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Peter, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

ROBERT—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Robert, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

SAMUEL—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Samuel, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

THOMAS—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Thomas, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

WALTER—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Walter, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

WILLIAM—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. William, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

YOUNG—On Nov. 29, at the Royal Free Hospital, a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Young, 14, St. John's Rd., London, N.10.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30